



# Jordan Times

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## High-profile defence meeting in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, facing renewed threats of U.S. military action to enforce full Iraqi cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors, convened a high-profile meeting of his defence and military chiefs. But Iraq's newspapers, which Sunday published front-page photographs of the Saturday meeting, gave no clue as to what had been discussed or decided. No reports accompanied the pictures, which showed President Saddam with his deputy Izzat Ibrahim, Defence Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan, Interior Minister Ali Hassan al-Majid and army commander Ayad Al Rawi. The meeting, also shown on state television late Saturday, came three days after the United States once again threatened to use force if Iraq does not fully facilitate the work of U.N. teams supervising the scrapping of its weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. Baghdad and the world body have been locked in a row for the past two weeks over the use of three helicopters, stationed in neighbouring Turkey, on loan to the U.N. from Germany.

## Yemen: Sanctions on Iraq unjustified

SANAA (R) — Yemen called Sunday for economic sanctions on Iraq to be lifted, saying they were no longer justified. "The economic embargo on Iraq has no justification now. It must end immediately," Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani told Yemen's official news agency in an interview. "The Yemeni republic called and will continue to call for the end of the dangers facing the children, women, old and sick people in Iraq," Mr. Iryani said, referring to reports from Iraq which speak of acute shortages and malnutrition among children. Yemen, together with a handful of Arab states, was sympathetic towards Iraq during the Gulf crisis and opposed the presence in Saudi Arabia of the U.S.-led multinational force which evicted Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February. Sudan has called for the lifting of the sanctions and said it was prepared to send it medical supplies. Yemen's perceived pro-Iraqi stand cost it cash-strapped treasury millions of dollars in remittances lost when Saudi Arabia, leading an anti-Iraq, Arab alliance, sent home hundreds of thousands of expatriate Yemeni workers.

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## King receives message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a message from President of Czechoslovakia Vaclav Havel. The message was delivered to the King by the Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, Dr. Martin Palous, at an audience at the Royal Court. Dr. Palous arrived here Saturday on a four day official visit to Jordan for talks with senior Jordanian officials on regional developments, the proposed peace conference as well as means of developing bilateral relations. The audience was attended by the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Talal bin Mohammad, the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department director and the Czechoslovak ambassador to Jordan, Frantisek Dolzel. Earlier Sunday, Prime Minister Taber Masri received Dr. Palous and discussed with him the latest developments in the region and means of enhancing relations between both countries.

## King congratulates Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia congratulating him on his country's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Saudi people further progress and prosperity.

## Israel upset over access to scrolls

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has warned a California library that giving scholars access to microfilm of the Dead Sea scrolls would be a breach of contract, Amir Dvori, director of Israel's antiquities authority, said Sunday. Mr. Dvori said Israel had allowed the 800 scrolls, recovered from caves in the Dead Sea between 1947 and the early 1950s, to be photographed in 1980 in case they were damaged or destroyed. Copies were given to three institutions with the "written understanding that they would not be allowed to use without our agreement," Mr. Dvori said in an interview. He said two of the institutions were in the United States and one in England (see page 2).

## Italian premier arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Moscow Sunday for two days of talks on economic cooperation, TASS news agency said. During the visit Mr. Andreotti is due to meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "The visit has obviously been prompted by the need to assess the situation in the Soviet Union and discuss economic cooperation in the new circumstances caused by the republics' drive for sovereignty and economic independence," TASS said.

## 3 killed in Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Three Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities were found dead Sunday in the occupied Gaza Strip, Israeli and Palestinian sources said. Military sources said the body of Hayazi Said Al Masri, 30, was found in Khan Yunis. Basam Sindi, 24, was shot dead by masked men in the Rafah refugee camp, Palestinians said. Israel Television reported the body of a third man was found in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp.

## Kabul calls for more U.N. aid

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan parliament called on the United Nations Sunday to do more to ensure adequate food and medical supplies for Afghanistan this coming winter. Kabul Radio said a parliamentary resolution also expressed support for a five-point U.N. framework for talks on negotiating an end to the 13-year-old Afghan war. The Soviet Union, which has sustained the Afghan government with huge shipments of food, fuel and weapons since the last Soviet troops left in 1989, agreed with the United States this month to end arms supplies by Jan. 1.

# U.S. Jewish leaders said to warn Israel against settlements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — American Jewish leaders have warned Israel that settlement building in the occupied territories is damaging their lobbying on Israel's behalf in Washington, newspapers reported Sunday.

Front-page reports in Maariv and Hadashot suggested a widening rift between Israel and its American Jewish supporters over how to deal with President George Bush's insistence on delaying consideration of loan guarantees to Israel.

It also came as Israel Radio and newspapers reported plans to break ground Tuesday for a settlement bordering on the occupied West Bank. They said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would attend the ceremony. The settlement is apparently part of a network of outposts planned by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon along the Israel-West Bank border, with the aim of blurring the frontier out of existence.

Maariv said the criticism arose Friday in a meeting in New York between Zimna Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington, and leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, an umbrella group representing more than five million U.S. Jews.

Some of the discussion was about Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to absorb Soviet immigrants, Maariv said.

Mr. Bush wants Congress to shelve the request for four months to avoid angering the Arabs and miring efforts to convene Middle East peace talks. He is known to be especially angered at Israel's refusal to freeze settlement construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Washington considers an obstacle to peace.

Maariv said Henry Siegman, director of the American Jewish Congress, and Abraham Foxman, director of the Washington-based Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, reacted sharply when Mr. Shoval suggested the controversy was over Israel's "borders" and not the settlements.

It quoted Mr. Siegman as saying: "There is no possibility of conducting an efficient campaign on the subject of the guarantees when in Israel they declare plans for 15,000 housing starts in the (occupied) territories."

Mr. Foxman said there was much concern among American Jews that additional settlements might be interpreted by Washington as a provocation, Maariv said.

"It is true that Israel has full rights to continue the settlements, but such a step would not in my view be wise now," Mr. Foxman reportedly added.

Maariv said that participants not identified by name also gave Mr. Shoval a message for the Israeli government, warning that more settlement building could "make it very difficult if not impossible for action to advance the matter of loan guarantees for Israel."

They urged Israel to conduct a "cautious and thoughtful policy" on the issue, adding that "instead the Israeli government is conducting a stupid policy," the newspaper said.

David Clayman, a representative of the American Jewish Congress in Israel, confirmed the meeting took place and that settlements was the main topic. But he told Israel Radio that despite the controversy there was "unqualified support for Israel among American Jewry."

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His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives a delegation representing the European Parliament (Petra photo)

## King, European delegation review Mideast peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court Sunday with a visiting delegation representing the European Parliament. The discussions during the meeting covered efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The delegation, led by Professor Dimitrios Nianias, expressed appreciation of the King's efforts to achieve peace in the region and reviewed with the King Arab-European relations in general and Jordan's ties with European countries in particular.

The King briefed the European parliamentarians on Jordan's current economic difficulties and its hope for further support from the international community and especially the European Community (EC). The two sides reviewed the current regional political situation and progress towards a Middle East peace conference.

Pro. Nianias praised the King's role during this difficult time for Jordan, and restated the European Parliament's appreciation of the King's recent visit to Strasbourg.

Washington (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's dogged crusade to arrange a Middle East peace conference has entered a crucial final phase.

"We are at a stage where we're trying to finalize the last of the details that will get us to the conference," a senior U.S. official said last week after Mr. Baker's seventh peace mission failed to settle the remaining outstanding issues.

Like the United States, Arab states are keen to keep October as the target for the peace conference. They fear that letting it slip beyond next month would sabotage the conference Mr. Baker has worked seven months to arrange.

Mr. Baker turned up the heat last week in an effort to force Palestinians, the only major party involved not to have agreed to attend the conference, to make a decision by early October.

"At some point what we have to do is stop fiddling with the nuances of language and give people an opportunity to either say they want to talk peace or not," a senior U.S. official told reporters Friday on Mr. Baker's plane to Washington.

"At some point in this exercise I think we get to the need for an action-forcing event...such as invitations," he said, adding: "I don't know when that is."

This message was not directed just at Palestinians. Israel and Arab governments have all sought modifications to "letters of assurances" in which Washington spelled out understandings upon which the conference will go forward.

During his five days in the Middle East, Mr. Baker said he would work with conference participants to modify the letters, as long as changes did not conflict with what he has told other parties. He has firmly ruled out secret deals.

Mr. Baker believes Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip want to attend the conference, which would launch direct Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The question is whether the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will agree. History, as Mr. Baker often asserts, is full of examples of the PLO rejecting peace overtures or forging alliances which made Palestinians international outcasts.

Mr. Baker also showed a tough side to Israel when he let it be known that Washington would seek to attach conditions, such as a freeze on settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories, when its request for housing loan guarantees worth \$10 billion goes before Congress.

It outraged Israel, but delighted Arabs as it was a sign that the United States could be an honest broker in peace efforts. Mr. Baker challenged Palestinians to move towards a decision on the peace conference when he asked them to meet him in Amman. He believes they have the most to lose if the conference falters and the most to gain if it goes ahead.

U.S. experts say the PLO realises the conference could be its political undoing. It will not be permitted to attend because Israel considers the PLO a "terrorist" organisation.

Allowing Palestinians from the occupied territories to represent Palestinians at the conference would help boost a new generation of Palestinian leaders. Palestinians initially said no and the Amman meeting between Mr. Baker and Hanan Ashrawi was cancelled. But a flurry of frantic telephone calls, in which the Soviet Union and Jordan played a key role, persuaded the PLO to agree to the meeting.

## Government doctors get allowance of 60%

AMMAN (J.T.) — In response to repeated calls by doctors employed by the Health Ministry for better pay and working conditions, Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi Sunday announced that all doctors working in government hospitals and health centres will receive a 60 per cent allowance on their monthly salary as of Sept. 1, 1991.

All doctors employed by the government from the beginning of January 1987 will be entitled to the allowance, according to the minister, who made the announcement following meetings with Prime Minister Taber Masri and a delegation representing the Jordan Medical Association (JMA).

According to Dr. Abbadi, all doctors, regardless of their place of work, will be entitled to the allowance in line with a system already applied to doctors employed by the Jordan University Hospital.

The minister's measure followed a two-hour work stoppage Sunday by all doctors employed by the Health Ministry to back their demand for better pay.

The minister, who made a visit to the Al Rafi Arabic daily newspaper Sunday afternoon, also announced that a new set of regulations will be enacted soon to give incentives for doctors to get better pay and promotion. A special committee will work out the regulations and submit them to the Council of Ministers for approval, the minister said. The committee comprises nine doctors and specialists from the various sectors.

The doctors had also threatened to start an open strike as of Wednesday unless their demands were met. Earlier, nearly 1,300 doctors signed a petition which was sent to his Majesty King Hussein appealing to him to improve their living and working conditions and demanding that they be treated on equal footing with their colleagues at the Jordan University Hospital.

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# Baker's efforts in crucial phase

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# Palestinian leadership at historic crossroads in Algiers

From Lami K. Andoni in Tunis

ON THE EVE of the 20th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faces the toughest political dilemma in its history: At stake is its role as the representative of the Palestinian people, which is at risk by either authorising or blocking Palestinian participation in the U.S.-led peace process.

The crucial question that PLO leaders find themselves confronted with for the first time is: Can the organisation's role be sacrificed for the hope of some form of a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict?

The PLO leadership cannot find an easy answer for that tormenting question, but some officials agree that if the suggested conference can lead to an end of the Israeli occupation the PLO's role cannot be allowed to be an obstacle.

Yet so far the PLO leadership has seen no serious signs that by disengaging itself from a direct role it will pave the way for a peaceful solution that will guarantee the minimum Palestinian national rights.

Most officials here fear that by authorising Palestinian participation the PLO will end up undermining its role without getting anywhere close to a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

"If this will be the case the Palestinians will need long years before they can get together another body to claim their national rights," says Fatah Central Committee member Intissar Al Wazir, (Umm Jihad), who together with her late husband — Khalil Al Wazir, who was assassinated by the Israelis in Tunis in 1988 — were two of the co-founders of post-1948 Palestinian national movement.

Consequently there is a strong argument within the Palestinian leadership that if the price of authorising Palestinian participation will be the representative role of the PLO without the attainment of Palestinian rights, blocking the process will be the lesser evil.

But this assessment, as some PLO officials argue, could be a simplistic way of looking at things and paves the way for more difficult questions: Can the PLO survive further political isolation if it decided to challenge the U.S.-brokered process? More significantly, what price will the Palestinian people, particularly in the Israeli-occupied territories, pay for defying the American terms for a peace conference?

Some officials here are haunted by the example of Iraq — a country which was completely devastated for challenging the U.S. "We have to understand that the balance of power cannot allow for such challenges," said a Fatah official. "Look at Iraq: (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat cannot bring down devastation on his people. He has to make the right calculations."

Others disagree. "There is a difference between taking into consideration the balance of power and between total submission to it. If we start by assuming that we have no cards left, that will be the end," argues Dr. Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO information department in Tunis.

But most officials concede that if the PLO emerged as the party that has blocked the peace process, it will not only face further isolation but might lose its ability to rally any kind of Arab or international support against Israeli settlements in the occupied territories or possible Israeli moves to ensure a fait accompli annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

At the same time there are strong doubts here that by insisting that Palestinian individuals take part in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, instead of accepting PLO participation, the U.S. is trying to eliminate the PLO and to avoid the issue of Palestinian national rights.

For many outsiders the issue of representation, or the form of Palestinian participation, seems like a procedural step that should not present an obstacle to peace. But in the Palestinian political mind — as viewed by most PLO officials and many outside the PLO — the issue of Palestinian representation lies at the heart of the national Palestinian struggle.

The PLO is thus viewed as the expression of Palestinian nationalism, rights, self-determination and the Palestinian entity. PLO officials argue that Palestinian national rights were only advanced as such and later recognised after the PLO's establishment and more specifically after it was taken over by the grassroots Palestinian resistance groups in 1969.

Seen in this light, the 1974 Arab summit and later on the United Nations recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people constituted a turning point that transformed the Palestinians, in the eyes of the world, from scattered and displaced refugees into a dispossessed nation entitled to national rights and self-determination.

Many officials here, regardless of whether they support involvement in the peace process or not, fear that if the PLO authorised Palestinian participation at the suggested peace conference without assurances that Palestinian national rights will be addressed, the move will amount to a voluntary reversal of the 1974 Arab and international recognition of Palestinian nationalism.

This argument explains why, over the last week, most groups here put forward the argument that regardless of the form of Palestinian participation, it should be made clear that Palestinians will be represented as a political and national entity at the conference.

"It is clear to us that the option of an independent Palestinian delegation is no longer an option, but we have to find a basis for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not negate the Palestinian national entity," says one senior PLO official.

This can be done, according to the official, by ensuring

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## Iran steps up opposition to U.S.-Kuwait military pact

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Sunday stepped up its opposition to a new military agreement between the United States and Kuwait, including a complaint to the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said.

In a related development, president Hashemi Rafsanjani commemorated what Iran sees as the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war by stressing the combat readiness of the armed forces, the news agency said.

"The region is not calm and those diabolic forces which were present in the scene against us in the last stages of the war are now trying to strengthen their hold in the region," Mr. Rafsanjani was quoted as saying in a clear reference to the United States.

Also, two Farsi-language newspapers attacked the U.S.-Kuwait pact. One called Washington "the number one enemy of the Islamic revolution."

Those editorials followed one Saturday by the Farsi daily Jomhuri Islami, which said the agreement "is drawn up unilaterally to suit the interest of Washington and disgraces the Kuwaiti government as a powerless subservient," IRNA reported.

Under the 10-year agreement, the United States agreed to keep troops in Kuwait longer than it had anticipated and to establish joint training and military exercises by the two countries' armed forces. Kuwait also would be

used to stockpile U.S. military materiel after American troops leave.

The Islamic Republic has always opposed the presence of U.S. forces in the Gulf region. The U.S. navy played a crucial role in the last years of the Iran-Iraq war by protecting oil tankers from Iranian attacks, effectively crippling Iran's strategy to halt Gulf shipping.

Iran also has sought to play a major role in post-war security arrangements, although the more conservative Arab Gulf states are reluctant to grant it too large a part.

IRNA said the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran, Fozul Abdul Aziz Al Jassim, was summoned Sunday by the Iranian Foreign Ministry to advise him of Iran's concerns.

The Supreme National Security Council, in its session last night, commissioned the Foreign Ministry to seek explanations from Kuwait on the content of the accord with Washington, which for a period of 10 years allows Americans to conduct any military action without prior approval of Kuwait, the news agency said.

It said Mostafa Fomani Haeri, the Foreign Ministry's director general for Gulf affairs, told the Kuwaiti diplomat that regional security should be provided merely through collective cooperation of regional countries.

Mr. Jassim promised to report the matter to the Kuwaiti government, IRNA said.

The news agency said the morning Tehran daily Salam wrote that "the question is whether attainment of peaceful co-existence meant neglect of national security and interests of the largest regional country."

"Does being immune of the reactionary sheikhs of the 'Persian' Gulf region from threats mean that the entire territory of these states be put at the disposal of the number one enemy of the Islamic revolution so that it can build military bases and constantly threaten the Islamic Republic?" the paper said.

"While tiny littoral sheikdoms in the southern 'Persian' Gulf ignore all political and security interests of the Islamic Republic and even move on the opposite direction, why should Iran keep silent in order to prove it is not an adventurist or a threat on Arab reactionaries?"

Another newspaper, Abrar, said that "U.S. domination over the region has taken a new momentum."

"Iran should intensify its political campaign and inform the regional people of the dangers posed by the presence of alien forces," Abrar's editorial said.

Iraqi state-run newspapers meanwhile accused Tehran of aggression and interference in Iraqi internal affairs.

The ruling Baath party newspaper Al Thawra said the threat of Iranian aggression had not gone away. Iranian leaders "have not given up their expansionist dreams," an editorial said.



An Ethiopian immigrant to Israel, a former teacher of Hebrew in his native land, stands in front of the Israeli employment exchange with two of his six children.

## Israel to allow Ethiopian converts to immigrate

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has decided to allow the immigration of thousands of Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity, according to a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"The question now is how to carry it out," Yosi Ahimeir said Sunday.

He said a government committee appointed by Mr. Shamir to study the problem of converts had recommended in principle that Israel should allow them in but they would have to undergo some form of reconversion to Judaism.

Israel has not determined how many converts live in Ethiopia or want to immigrate, he said.

Israel airlifted 14,000 Ethiopian Jews in May as rebels closed in on Addis Ababa to oust former Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam. Officials said then that few Jews had remained behind but thousands of converts had.

Israel Television said the government planned to send a delegation to Ethiopia to check out would-be immigrants and determine if they seriously wanted to become Jews again.

The black Jews of Ethiopia link their heritage to the Bible. Tradition holds that they are descended from nobles of Jerusalem who accompanied Menelik, son of the Biblical King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, on his journey to Africa.

They were called "Falashas" (strangers) by the Ethiopians, a term they considered derogatory.

In 1973, Israel's chief rabbis traced their roots to the Biblical tribe of Dan, establishing their right to immigrate to Israel as Jews under the country's "law of return."

Mr. Shamir adopted the recommendation of the special committee he had established to deal with the issue that was raised during the May airlift, Israel Television said.

Up to 3,000 Ethiopians were turned away from the rescue flights because they had converted to Christianity and did not meet Israel's definition of a Jew.

"The prime minister has accepted the recommendations of a report that says we are ready in principle to check every incident of those who were Jews and converted and bring them to Israel," said a source quoted by the AP.

Some officials have argued that allowing the converts to immigrate would open the door for tens of thousands of Ethiopians to seek asylum in Israel from their war-torn, famine-stricken country.

Others have insisted that the converts be allowed to immigrate for humanitarian reasons. Many Ethiopian immigrants in Israel have left behind close family in Ethiopia who have converted.

Israel Television estimated that there were some 15,000 Jews who had converted to Christianity, and added that the number could reach hundreds of thousands.

## Freed ark hunters take rest

ANKARA (Agencies) — Five Westerners held by Kurdish separatist rebels in mountain hideouts for three weeks savoured their freedom at a U.S. air base in southern Turkey Sunday and telephoned their families.

Major Michael McKinney, a spokesman at Incirlik, said the five men — four of whom had been hunting for Noah's Ark — had eaten an American-style meal after arriving at the base from eastern Turkey Saturday evening.

"They had a restful night at the base hospital. By all appearances, they are all in good health, but they are being examined further to make sure that is the case," he said.

The three Americans, an Australian and a Briton, all in their fifties, were set free at midnight on Friday near the spot where Kurdish guerrillas seized them on Aug. 30.

They were questioned at length by Turkish authorities in the provincial capital of Bingol before being handed over to an American consular official Saturday.

A U.S. diplomat said the five were talking to their families over two telephone lines put at their disposal.

He expected them to stay another day at the base, used in the past as a transit point for Western hostages from Lebanon.

Australian Allan Roberts, 59, and his three American companions had been on a quest for Noah's Ark, which the Bible says fetched up on Mount Ararat (Arash) in eastern Turkey.

Mr. Roberts told an Australian diplomat he was keen to resume his search for the ark next year.

Kurdish rebels took British tourist Gareth Thomas from a Turkish bus at the same roadblock as the other four.

The kidnappers said Saturday they were treated well and tried to assist Turkish searches by leaving a trail of dollar bills behind.

Their account confirmed earlier speculation after the discovery of U.S. currency near the place where they had been abducted.

Turkish Television showed the beaming Westerners in clean clothes animatedly describing their ordeal.

It quoted them as recounting how their abductors made them walk at night and hide in woods at dawn to avoid detection.

"We could see the helicopters flying over, but they could not see us," an unidentified Westerner told reporters. "We were walking for three-to-four hours at night."

They said the Kurdish rebels were escorting them in groups of eight to 20 and were treated well.

The five had been released by their captors late Friday night as Turkish troops learned of their whereabouts and started a rescue operation, the special government announced in Diyarbakir.

After their release, British Thomas said they were given directions by their abductors on where to find authorities. They walked about 90 minutes until they reached a military police station at Nicalar, 25 kilometers from Bingol.

The Kurds gave the men separatist propaganda and explained their organization's goals and activities.

The Kurdish guerrilla group PKK — Kurdish Labour Party — had said it held the men and demanded that foreign travellers to southeastern Turkey obtain "passes" from its offices in Europe.

The PKK has been fighting a guerrilla war since 1984 in southeastern Turkey for an independent state. The area is home to half of Turkey's 12 million Kurds.

## Bush concerned about his remarks on lobbyists

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has expressed concern that his remarks about pro-Israel lobbyists fighting him on housing loan guarantees had "caused apprehension" in the Jewish community.

Mr. Bush says the lobbyists who are urging Congress to approve the \$10 billion in guarantees over his objections "are a legitimate and valued part of the decision-making process in a democracy."

"My references to lobbyists were never meant to be pejorative in any sense," Mr. Bush said in a Tuesday letter to Shoshana S. Cardin, chairwoman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter.

Miss Cardin wrote Mr. Bush after a nationally televised news conference last week in which he vowed to veto any legislation for the loan guarantees and to fight the 1,000 lobbyists who were pressing Congress to help Israel settle up to one million Soviet and Ethiopian Jews.

"I'm up against some powerful political forces," Mr. Bush said in the news conference. "We're up against very strong and effective groups that go up to the Hill."

He accused Israel's supporters in the U.S. Congress of jeopardizing a U.S. attempt to bring about a Middle East peace conference.

Subsequently, reporters

travelling in the Mideast to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker were told Israel would have to stop sending Jews Arab land to get the guarantee even after the four-month lay demanded by Mr. Bush.

Miss Cardin said she appreciated Mr. Bush's support for Israel and the absorption of Soviet and Ethiopian refugees. She also said the organizations shared his hope for a peace conference and negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

But she said the lobbyists were exercising their right and obligation as U.S. citizens to advocate their position on a vital humanitarian issue.

"Therefore," she wrote, "found some of the comments your press conference... to be disturbing and subject to misinterpretation."

"In particular," she wrote, "the reference to 1,000 lobbyists on the Hill working the other side of the question and to powerful political forces through and many others."

Mr. Bush's letter said "we have honest differences of opinion."

"I am concerned," Mr. Bush said, "that some of my comments at the Thursday press conference caused apprehension within the Jewish community, references to lobbyists powerful political forces never meant to be pejorative any sense."

## Kuwaitis, Saudis owe \$5.8b for war effort

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are \$5.8 billion short of fulfilling their payment pledges for forcing Iraqi troops out of Kuwait and defending Gulf oil fields, U.S. officials say.

All the other major donors have paid, though South Korea is about \$130 million short on a \$355 million pledge, the officials told the Associated Press.

The U.S. government has collected \$48 billion of the \$54 billion in worldwide pledges. It cost the treasury an estimated \$61 billion to protect Saudi Arabia and force Iraq to give up Kuwait after invading on Aug. 2, 1990, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Among the major paid-up contributors are Japan, which donated \$10 billion, and Germany, which gave \$6.5 billion.

Kuwait had promised \$16 billion to assist in its liberation and the restoration of the ruling Sabah royal family, while the oil-rich Saudis pledged \$16.8 billion for Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Kuwait is \$2.8 billion short and the Saudis about \$3 billion.

"We do expect the remaining amount to be paid in a reasonable time," a U.S. official said. "But this is not a loan payment. It is a contribution. There is no time frame."

The pledges from wealthy nations were obtained by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady. The aim was to offset war costs while demonstrating to the American public that the drive against Iraq had worldwide support.

There appears to be no legal requirement that donors fulfill their pledges, nor does there seem to be concern that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait eventually will make good on their promises.

## GCC, Egyptian and Syrian ministers to meet next month

NICOSIA (R) — The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and the six allies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will meet in Cairo next month to discuss regional developments, the official Omani News Agency said Sunday.

The report, received in Cyprus, quoted an official source as saying the ministers, to meet during the first week of October, would discuss the proposed Middle East peace conference.

It did not say whether the ministers planned to discuss security arrangements in the Gulf region.

The GCC, a decade-old military and economic bloc, groups Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. They, together with Egypt and Syria, were key partners in the U.S.-led alliance which fought Iraq in the Gulf war and evicted its forces from Kuwait in February.

The eight nations agreed in March on a joint security pact to defend the Gulf region against future Iraqi threats. It soon foundered over difference on the size and role of a proposed force which was to be deployed in Kuwait.

## Tehran says Bakhtiar suspect was French agent

NICOSIA (AP) — A suspect in the Paris assassination of former Iranian Premier Shahpour Bakhtiar was fired from Iran's broadcasting service four years ago for "collaborating" with French intelligence, a report said Sunday.

Massoud Hendi, charged Saturday with complicity in the slaying, was Paris bureau chief of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting from 1981 until 1987, the government-run radio and television agency said in a statement.

He was fired "after he was summoned to Tehran and confessed to his collaboration with the French secret services," said the statement, reported by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

"However, he disclosed the name of his French contact and the place of their rendezvous and deeply repented his past conduct," the statement said.

The statement reiterated that Mr. Hendi was neither a relative of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini nor has any connection with Ayatollah Khomeini's family, which has been alleged in some French media reports. IRNA reported. Iran's embassy in Paris has also denied the allegations.

The news agency said: "The statement concluded that the trip to Paris of Hendi and his family members 45 days after Bakhtiar's mysterious assassination and his subsequent arrest by the French police in connection with the assassination is a question which needs deliberation."

Exiled Iranian opposition leaders say that Iran was behind the Aug. 6 assassination of Mr. Bakhtiar, 76, and an aide, who were stabbed to death at Mr. Bakhtiar's home. Iran, which has been trying to improve relations with Western countries including France, has denied responsibility.

Mr. Hendi, 44, was detained Wednesday and interrogated by French police before he was charged with complicity in the assassination and conspiracy in a terrorist enterprise.

He became the second person charged in the case. Ali Rad Vakil was arrested in Switzerland last month and extradited to Paris, where he was charged with murder.

Two other suspected assassins, both Iranians, are missing. Sources close to the investigation said Mr. Hendi has implicated figures in Iran's power structure who allegedly tried to help him procure false identity papers and visas for the killers.

The sources said Mr. Hendi was interrogated by French counter-intelligence during a wave of Iranian-inspired bombings in Paris in 1986.

Mr. Hendi, currently in the import-export business, was on a business trip at the time of his arrest, the sources said.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Documentary  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Weekly Sports Magazine  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Hey Dad  
21:10 ..... Murder she wrote  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Over My Dead Body

### PRAYER TIMES

04:56 ..... Fajr  
06:14 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
12:31 ..... Dhur  
16:02 ..... 'Asr  
18:48 ..... Maghreb  
20:06 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 510740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Lorraine Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Association Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626431  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773561  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Assrian International Church Tel. 683326  
Despotic Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Slight increase in temperatures is expected and winds will be north-westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman ..... Min./Max. temp. 15 / 29  
Aqaba ..... 23 / 34  
Desert ..... 16 / 32  
Jordan Valley ..... 22 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings:

Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh ..... 736123  
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun ..... 787708  
Dr. Fakhr Abu Tayeh ..... 883880  
Dr. Abdul Majid Shear ..... 791405  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asam pharmacy ..... 637025  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 636792  
Al Salem pharmacy ..... 636790  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shawassan pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Mohammed Zoubi ..... (-)  
Al Shama pharmacy ..... 275925

ZARQA:  
Dr. Mufred Dhamra ..... (-)  
Khafid pharmacy ..... 965417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 871226  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605900  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (Directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani ..... 6641714  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 843845  
Al-Munster Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77311126  
Army, Merka ..... 8916115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 66240930  
Amal Hospital ..... 674135  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)833323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)803560  
Im Sina Hospital ..... (09)866738  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)909090

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

IBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272775  
Im Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)2200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Montreal New York (RJ)  
12:40 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
13:15 ..... London (RJ)  
13:25 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
14:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
14:30 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Dubai, Moscow (RJ)  
Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
09:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)

17:25 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
18:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
18:25 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
19:50 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Moscow (RJ)

16:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
23:30 ..... Paris (AF)

### Other Carriers (Terminal 2)

13:20 ..... Cairo (MS)  
14:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
22:00 ..... Paris (AF)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Montreal New York (RJ)  
12:40 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
13:15 ..... London (RJ)  
13:25 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
14:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
14:30 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Dubai, Moscow (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg  
Apples ..... 700/65  
Bananas ..... 500/45  
Banana (Malaysian) ..... 450/40  
Beans ..... 500/45  
Cabbage ..... 150/10  
Cauliflower ..... 280/22  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 180/12  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 320/28  
Eggplant ..... 250/18  
Garlic ..... 1000/150  
Grapes ..... 900/85  
Lemon (green) ..... 220/14  
Lemon (yellow) ..... 320/25  
Marrow (large) ..... 200/15  
Marrow (small) ..... 300/15  
Onion ..... 900/85  
Onion (dry) ..... 250/12  
Orange ..... 400/32  
Peaches ..... 700/65  
Pineapple ..... 200/15  
Pepper (hot) ..... 240/18  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 380/32  
Potato ..... 300/22  
Sage ..... 600/30  
Sweet corn ..... 350/24  
Tomatoes ..... 130/4  
Watermelon ..... 130/4



## IAEA demands Israel allow inspection

By Tareq Al Momani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conference held in Vienna last week called on Israel to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 487, urging it to subject its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

The statement was made by Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Isam Goshah, who led Jordan's delegation to the Vienna conference.

Mr. Goshah said that he submitted to the conference, held between Sept. 16 and Sept. 20, a resolution on behalf of the Arab countries taking part in the meeting demanding that Israel comply with the Security Council resolution. The Arab resolution was adopted by the IAEA with 37

votes in favour, three against and with 17 abstentions, Mr. Goshah said.

The resolution called on all countries supplying Israel with nuclear equipment to subject their nuclear exports to Israel to strict control and demanded that the IAEA's director general conduct talks with the Israeli government on implementing the resolution. It further requested he report the outcome of his contacts to the

next IAEA meeting, according to Mr. Goshah.

The conference requested that its call be conveyed to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and that it be placed on the agenda of this year's U.N. General Assembly, he said.

Jordan has repeatedly called for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, which is in fact free of nuclear weapons except for Israel.

## JANDA calls for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in approach to peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Arab National Democratic Front (JANDA) has cautioned the government against overlooking the principled and national stands of the Arab Nation in dealing with the U.S. sponsored peace plan and to coordinate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria in this respect.

A statement issued shortly after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker ended his seventh tour of the region for talks on the U.S. peace initiative said that the government should not go to a peace conference that would lead to capitulation.

A JANDA spokesman said that assurances offered during Mr. Baker's seventh tour, during which he held talks with Israeli, Syrian, Jordanian and Palestinian officials, do not meet the requirements necessary to achieve the Palestinian people's rights.

Washington does not deal with the Palestinians as a people with legitimate rights recognised by the United Nations and its various resolutions but rather as a group of people with no national identity and considers the Palestinians as a marginal factor in the upcoming regional conference, the spokesman said.

The American stands clearly manifest a retreat from the concept of exchanging land for peace in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, said the statement.

JANDA strongly condemns this American stand and hereby declares its adherence to the Arab and Palestinian people's principled stand and conditions for a peace conference, the spokesman added. JANDA, he said, calls on Arab parties to refrain from entering negotiations that do not recognise the Palestinian people's rights.

The JANDA statement followed reports that Palestinian refugees living in 11 camps in Jordan have sent a petition to the Palestine National Council (PNC), which meets in Algiers Monday, saying that the PLO alone should represent them at any Arab-Israeli conference.

The petition signed by 93,000 refugees, said that the peace plan as proposed by the United States was a sell out of Palestinian rights and stressed that only PLO participation in any meeting can guarantee a durable peace that would secure the Palestinians right to their homeland.

## The Housing Crisis Housing shortage spurs land sales and building boom

This is the second in a series of articles that seek to examine the current housing crisis in Jordan. This article deals with the sales market, increased building activity and their effects on land prices.

By Nidal M. Ibrahim  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the left hand wall of the office of Husam Azar, director of statistics for the Department of Lands and Surveys, is a line chart of the department's revenues over the past 10 years.

August 1991's total of JD 5.6 million — a 122 per cent increase over the same period last year — is literally off the chart, with the line going beyond the borders of the graph and up the wall.

With the current boom in construction, Mr. Azar's department is collecting a bonanza in fees for various land transactions and registration services.

"I think in 1983 there was a boom in building on land and this is like it," Mr. Azar said.

The 1983 building boom was caused by the return of Palestinians fleeing the devastation caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Mr. Azar said.

Similarly, the current upsurge in building activity is being caused by the return of an estimated 300,000 expatriates from Kuwait and other Gulf states.

The demand for housing and shortage of available renting space has pushed the price of land in Jordan to some of the highest levels seen in the last 10 years and is keeping construction workers busy.

The result has been a boom for real estate agents as investors seek to capitalise on the increasing land prices while builders try to fill the void left by the lack of rental units.

The increase in demand for housing and the building boom have caused land appreciation rates to at least triple.

While the average annual appreciation rate for property in Jordan is 10 per cent, it is currently running between 30 per cent and 50 per cent, depending on the area, said Khaled Saudi, owner of Saudi Real Estate in Amman.

As a result, sales at Saudi Real Estate are up over last year "at least double," said Mr. Saudi, whose office handles property exclusively in the west part of Amman.

One reason for the increased sales activity is the entry into the market of speculators, he said. People that would normally invest in other activities are finding the real estate market a profitable venture these days because of the rapid appreciation of land values.

Most investors are purchasing a plot of land, holding it for a couple of months and reselling the property at a profit, Mr. Saudi said.

"In a hot spot, land this summer may change hands three times," he said.

According to figures of sales activity from the Department of Lands and Surveys, there were 5,864 sales in August 1991, a 31.8 per cent increase over August 1990's 3,999 transactions.

Similarly, there were 4,898 sales in July 1991, an increase of 26.9 per cent over the 3,862 transactions completed in July 1990.

Furthermore, if sales continue at their current pace, a total of 49,248 transactions will have been completed in 1991, a 16.9 per cent increase over 1990's 40,908 total sales.

In addition to the mass influx of returnees, high rental prices are further spurring the building boom. Rents have increased so much — between 50 per cent and 70 per cent above pre-war levels, according to real estate agents — that a family can buy an average parcel of land with three years' worth of the rent money it would pay for an apartment in today's market, Mr. Azar said.

Still, he pointed out, the statistics are misleading if taken out of context. Total figures for 1990, because of the Gulf crisis and its effect on the market, are depressed.

Also, monthly figures, while indicative of the present state of the industry, are subject to seasonal fluctuations, he added.

For example, August normally represents the most active month of the year. Reasons for this include the tourist season, with visitors artificially inflating the demand for housing while at the same time increasing the supply of liquid money on the market. In addition, farmers usually harvest their crops and sell them on the market in August, reaping the windfall profits of their efforts, Mr. Azar said.

Another reason has been that, in past years, expatriates living in the Gulf normally came home for vacation in August, bringing their savings and initiating various building projects, he added.

The housing situation, according to Mr. Azar, will stabilise in the next few months. Still, he is not willing to say that the market will be dormant as he expects a steady stream of people to return to Jordan.

"As I know, we are talking now only of expatriates coming from Kuwait," Mr. Azar said.

But even if they are not forced to leave those countries, Mr. Azar said he expected many Jordanians and Palestinians to leave the Gulf countries.

Seeing what has happened to the expatriates who devoted their lives to building Kuwait, many Jordanians and Palestinians living in other Gulf countries will come to the realisation that the same could easily happen to them. This lack of security will prompt many to leave the Gulf area, Mr. Azar said.

## Activists call for release of Jordanians in Syrian prisons

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian activists Saturday sought the help of Europe for the release of eight Jordanian political prisoners held for the last 20 years in Syrian jails.

"The National Committee for Follow-up on Jordanian Political Prisoners in Syria has urged the European Parliamentary delegation to intervene with Syria to release the prisoners," Samir Habashneh, a member of the committee told the Jordan Times. He said that all eight were detained without trial for their political beliefs and had carried no acts to undermine the Syrian state.

Following is part of the text of the committee's message:

The world is on the path of establishing political plurality, democracy and the respect of freedom and the other opinion. And since you have a leading role in paving such a path, and since the detainees are prisoners of conscience who practice peaceful dialogue and since there is not a reason to keep them in prolonged detention, we call upon you to intercede on their behalf with the Syrian authorities so that they may be released immediately and so they may join their families who have waited for more than twenty years in horrible turmoil.

We write this memorandum to you, as we believe that, your ideals regarding human rights will make this issue one of priority on your agenda when dealing with Syrian officials and that your respect for human rights and dignity will give this issue its due of international political attention, so that the detainees will be released.

With our best regards  
The National Committee for the Release of Jordanian Political Detainees in Syrian Prisons.

## Attas arrives for committee meeting, carries message

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas Sunday arrived in Amman to head the Yemeni side to the meetings of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Committee, which will convene here today.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Attas said he will convey a verbal message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Attas said he hoped that the committee will be able to achieve progress on the path of enhancing bilateral cooperation in all fields. He noted the importance of the committee's meeting, which is the first since the unification of the two parts of Yemen.

Mr. Attas said the committee will work towards achieving economic integration between both countries through enhancing joint cooperation.

He added that his country seeks to benefit from Jordan's experience in the agricultural field, given the fact that Yemen has great agricultural resources.

On Jordanian-Yemeni cooperation in areas like industry, electricity, natural gas, education and tourism, Mr. Attas said there was a need to expand scopes of cooperation in these areas.

He also stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between private sector institutions in both countries and called for setting up joint venture companies in which both Jordanian and Yemeni governments can participate.

The Joint Higher Committee will also discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest and will evaluate the progress made on a number of issues covered by agreements already concluded between both countries.

Mr. Attas is heading a Yemeni delegation comprising ministers of education, agriculture and water resources as well as a number of experts.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani and Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce, Fadel Mohsen, who are now in Amman, join the Yemeni side to the meeting.

Mr. Attas and the accompanying delegation were received upon arrival by Prime Minister Taher Masri, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Subeimat and a number of cabinet ministers.

## Seminar to discuss water problem; officials ask public to cooperate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Monday will open a seminar on water resources in Jordan organised by the business and professional women's club.

The day-long seminar is expected to review four working papers pertaining to water resources: water use, water reserves and protection of water resources in the Kingdom, according to the organisers.

They said that the seminar, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, also will review a working paper dealing with international water resources and Jordan's share in such resources.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kawai and leading water specialists, in Jordan will be among those taking part in the seminar.

Amman Water Department said that the capital consumes most of the water in the Kingdom and the presence of more than 400,000 expatriates and visitors has been exerting enormous pressure on the department, rendering it almost incapable of meeting the population's water needs.

Engineer Sinan Khleifat, the department's director, said in a statement that although the capital draws water for domestic and industrial use from a number of resources, it barely receives 210,000 cubic metres of water on a daily basis despite needing 300,000 cubic metres daily.

Mr. Khleifat said that he would remain pessimistic about the water situation in the country unless urgent steps were taken to deal with the crisis. The country should immediately start drilling new artesian water wells, draw

water from Waleh, Hidan and Disi and reduce the amounts of water lost through leakage in rusty networks, Mr. Khleifat said.

He added that his department has been trying to deal with this difficult situation by adopting a water distribution system in the capital and has been urging the public to restrict water supplies to drinking and other domestic use.

According to Mr. Khleifat, up to 40 per cent of the total water supplies pumped to the capital could be saved if residents rationed the use of water, refrained from watering gardens and washing cars and if proper action was taken to upgrade the water networks to prevent leakage.

Annual consumption grew from 135 million cubic metres in 1986 to 150 million in 1987 and 178 million in 1989.

## Meeting of Jordanian agricultural organisations and ICARDA to review developments in field

AMMAN (J.T.) — Agriculture Minister Subhi Al Qasem will be one of several key speakers at the third coordination meeting between Jordanian agricultural institutions and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) to be held at the University of Jordan.

Dr. R. Booth, ICARDA assistant director-general for international cooperation, will give a presentation on ICARDA's role in the region during the meeting, which will start Monday, according to a statement by the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan.

The statement said that 60 researchers and technicians from Jordan representing the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Jordan, the Jordan University of

Science and Technology and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation as well as 15 scientists from ICARDA programmes will participate in the meeting.

In the three-day gathering, participants will discuss the results of last year's cooperation efforts between the two sides and will formulate a working plan for bilateral cooperation in the 1991-1992 season.

Cooperation between Jordan and ICARDA has been strengthened in the last two years, according to the statement. It covers the areas of production of cereals, legumes, forage and livestock as well as the fields of seed technology and production and modern technology transfer on barley production. In addition, the statement said, several

training and scientific visits were carried out by ICARDA for the benefit of Jordanians in different agricultural fields.

Established in 1977, ICARDA is governed by an independent board of trustees. Based in Aleppo, Syria, it is one of 13 centres supported by the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is a consortium of donor governments and agencies.

ICARDA seeks to enhance and sustain food production while at the same time improving social and economic conditions for people living in developing countries. ICARDA's most important activities are under way at various locations in Syria, Jordan, Pakistan, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan.

## DEF to provide loans for VTC graduates wishing to open businesses

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Development and Employment Fund (DEF) and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Sunday signed an agreement under which the DEF would provide necessary funds to help VTC graduates start their own business.

Graduates from the VTC training centres can obtain soft loans from the DEF through a special account to be opened at the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) to start income-generating schemes, according to the agreement.

For its part, the VTC conducts a feasibility study on each project and offers recommendations to

the DEF and the IDB over the amount of money to be given in each case, the agreement said.

DEF Director Abdul Ilah Abu Ayyash said that the loan is given to the VTC graduate provided he or she will take charge of the project. He said that priority will be given to those families who now earn a maximum of JD 120 a month and wish to start a business to secure additional income.

Mr. Abu Ayyash noted that the maximum amount that can be lent to any individual is JD 6,000.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the programme, the DEF and the VTC held training courses for the VTC officials.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of naive painting from Germany at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Boud at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Nidal Jannous at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Salim Al Nowri at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Iraqi artists Nadim Mahdawi, Hakim Mahdi and Haider Al Masroufi at Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.

### FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Les Maries de L'an Deux" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

## HAYA CULTURAL CENTER COURSES

Course	Day	Time	Fees
Ballet	Mon. & Wed.	3:30-4:15	JD45 3 month.
Jazz Dance	Mon. & Sat.	5:15-6:15	JD45 3 month.
Gymnastic	Sun. & Wed.	3:30-4:30	JD20 2 month.
Music	(Piano, Drums, Organ; Oud, Guitar)		JD35 3 month.
Arabic writing	Sun. & Thu.	4-5	JD20 2 month.
Taiwanduo	Sun. & Tue.	5:30-6:30	JD30 3 month.
Rhythmic gymnastic	Sun. & Fri.	6:30-7:30	JD30 3 month.
Painting	Sat. & Thu.	4:30-6	JD30 3 month.
Art of making	Sat. & Wed.	4-5:30	JD25 3 month.
Puppets and doll	Monday	4-6	JD25 2 month.
Self expression	Sat. & Tue.	3:30-4:30	JD25 3 month.

### Special exercise classes for ladies

Weight loss	Sat.	6:30-7:30	JD30 2 month.
	Thur.	4:30-6	
Modern dance	Sun. & Wed.	6:30-7:30	JD25 2 month.
Callanetics	Sat. & Mon.	10:30-11:30	JD30 2 month.
	Wed.		

\* For more information please call Haya Center 665194

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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## PNC at crossroads

THE PALESTINE National Council (PNC) is meeting today in Algeria amid persistent reports that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is as divided as ever on how to respond to the impending invitations to participate in the peace conference that is scheduled for October. Palestinian divisions in the past had taken a heavy toll on the Palestinian struggle for recognition, national identity and statehood. With many major PLO groups now leaning towards a militant and defiant mood that purports to reject the latest American assurances and clarifications on the terms and conditions of the proposed peace talks, the stage appears to be set in favour of boycotting the prospective peace negotiations. But Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who heads Fateh, the biggest and by far the most powerful Palestinian faction in the PLO, is reputed to be still holding all options open by preventing a precipitous stampede against a Palestinian participation in the peace parley.

Understandably, the Palestinians are bothered by the lack of sufficient U.S. assurances on fundamental issues including a commitment that there will be at the end of the tunnel an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Equally disturbing to the various PLO factions especially the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and both wings of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), is the continued fatal flaws in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's most recent pronouncements on the terms of reference and objectives of the proposed peace negotiations. These include the U.S. interpretation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 as not necessarily entailing complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands, the absence of an instant freeze on Israeli settlement in Arab territories, the separation of the issue of Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied lands, and the non-applicability of the full right to self-determination for the Palestinian people. Even the format of the Palestinian participation whether separately or under a Jordanian-Palestinian umbrella, is causing consternation among several Palestinian factions. Yasser Arafat, the leader of the newly formed wing of the DFLP group, summed up the shift in the Palestinian mood when he said Saturday "We (the Palestinians) cannot approve Palestinian participation under the present American conditions."

It is relatively easy to sympathise with the grievances of the various Palestinian factions because in fact there are still several shortcomings in the terms and conditions of the prospective U.S.-brokered peace negotiations. At the same time it would be infinitely harder to comprehend any verdict against Palestinian attendance of the peace talks between Israel and the Arab sides even under the current imperfect conditions. To begin with, the Palestinian people, whether under occupation or in the diaspora, are entitled to know what viable or operational alternatives their assembled leadership can offer them should they decide to boycott the last remaining chance to salvage their rights and aspirations from total doom and gloom. Surely the Palestinian leaders must be banking on something concrete when they announce to their people that the conditions for peace talks are not ripe yet. It would be utterly folly to disregard the existing Arab conditions and the international climate when the PNC decides one way or another. To pin hopes on what the future may bring or in the ability of the Palestinians alone to extricate for themselves much more favourable peace terms would be a rather risky exercise that may prove fatal to the overall Palestinian cause. The Palestinians have always gambled on their ability to achieve more when in fact they continuously attained less, not once but over and over again.

Admittedly, any decision by the PNC would be decisive and also fraught with dangers. On balance, however, the PNC would do better to gamble on peace than on negativism and rhetoric. The Palestinians have an opportunity to gain something rather than lose a lot by attending the peace conference. Besides they would not be obliged to accept any package that may be offered to them if at the end of the negotiations, the terms of such an offer fall considerably short of their minimum expectations.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT is clear to all that Israel is currently escalating its attempts to abort the ongoing preparations for holding a peace conference, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. Signs pointing in this direction, its said, are manifested in recent statements given by Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens who voiced his government's determination to pursue efforts to build settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Arens followed this statement with one which he stated clearly that the peace conference would not make the Israeli troops withdraw from the occupied territories, the paper noted. It said that Israel's government statements in this respect clearly mean that the Jewish state is determined to build more settlements and will not give up land in exchange for peace with the Arab countries. By so doing, the Israeli government hopes to force the Palestinian leadership refuse any settlement and, by doing so, display itself as an obstacle in the U.S.-sponsored peace settlement, the paper noted. It said that the current Israeli onslaught on the peace process should prompt Washington to act fast enough to prevent any delay in convening the conference provided its aim is to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. The paper said that the Israeli government's treatment of the peace process will make it suffer from the consequences, should conflict break out in the future.

SAWT Al Shaab daily agreed with Al Ra'i's editorial in that Israel is exerting all efforts to abort the peace conference and said that in order to do so the Shamir government might resign so as to cause further delays in the peace process. The paper said that observers have no doubt now that the Bush administration is serious about convening the peace conference, especially after it has established contacts with the Palestinian people and its leadership outside and inside the occupied territories.

## Weekly political pulse

# Realism should prevail

It would be folly in the extreme to formulate the Palestinians posture on the projected October peace talks only on the basis of abstract semantics, pure legalism or even morality. There is no more room left for romanticism in these trying times for the Palestinian people under occupation who had suffered more than enough because their leadership throughout the past decades could not or were unwilling to distinguish between the probable and the improbable. What obviously should dictate the stance of the Palestinians on the upcoming peace parley is realpolitik criteria and not wishful thinking or fantasy. The Palestinians were burned more than once simply because the point of departure for their position is the immorality or the illegality of the Israeli aggrandisement of their country.

In more than one way, one can easily sympathise with this Palestinian position because they are a proud Arab people who saw their country stolen from them by treachery, design and manipulation. Never in history was there a comparable situation where the indigenous people of a country were totally disfranchised and dispossessed of their country. It is indeed very painful for this people to reconcile with such a level of international profanity and immorality. That would explain in part why one generation of Palestinians after other never came to grips with the harsh reality that only power politics defines and articulates a certain country's

bargaining position. Failing to accept this reality meant that the Palestinians' kept biting more than they could chew. This agonising experience has left the Palestinians with little to show for after more than five decades of struggle to save their lands from the designs of Zionism.

While one can still sympathise with the Palestinian dilemma and appreciate their suffering and agony for being constantly pushed in the direction of relinquishing not only the major part of their homeland but also making commitments on behalf of present and future Palestinian generations, what is in essence asked of them is a historic decision and not only an interim one. Unfortunately, by rejecting previous interim solutions, the Palestinian leadership had put itself in a straitjacket and is now cornered to either accept a compromise or risk losing all.

Yet if the Palestinians are unable or unwilling to jump on the bandwagon of peace, for one legitimate reason or another, this should not give Tel Aviv a pretext to continue the usurpation of Arab lands. As the Palestinian case of the Arab-Israeli conflict goes beyond the West Bank and Gaza Strip to reach other aspects and dimensions, the Arab efforts to salvage the occupied territories must not be left in suspense till the Arab condition and international climate become favourable to the Palestinian cause in all its dimensions. There is every reason to call on Jordan to

take up the issue of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to negotiate on their behalf if the Palestinian leadership is forced to boycott the anticipated peace negotiations for one reason or another.

From the look of things, a peace conference will be held with or without the Palestinians. With the consent of the PLO and the agreement of the other concerned Arab parties, Amman should be enlisted for the purpose of rescuing the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israeli occupation and colonisation. It would be unconscionable to let Tel Aviv continue its designs on these territories simply because the Palestinians are not able to extricate from the international community in general and the U.S. and Israel in particular sufficiently reasonable grounds to permit them to join the peace talks.

One Arab state or another should shoulder this responsibility and there is no better Arab country to do this than Jordan. The Palestine National Council's meeting in Algiers could very well take up this matter should it decide that, on balance, it is unable to attend the projected peace talks. Since the odds are in favour of going ahead with the peace conference, the council can adopt decision to relegate to Amman this awesome responsibility. Any other course would leave the Palestinians under occupation and in the diaspora stranded for God only knows how long.

# 'Zionism is racism' — the case against reversal

By Emma Murphy

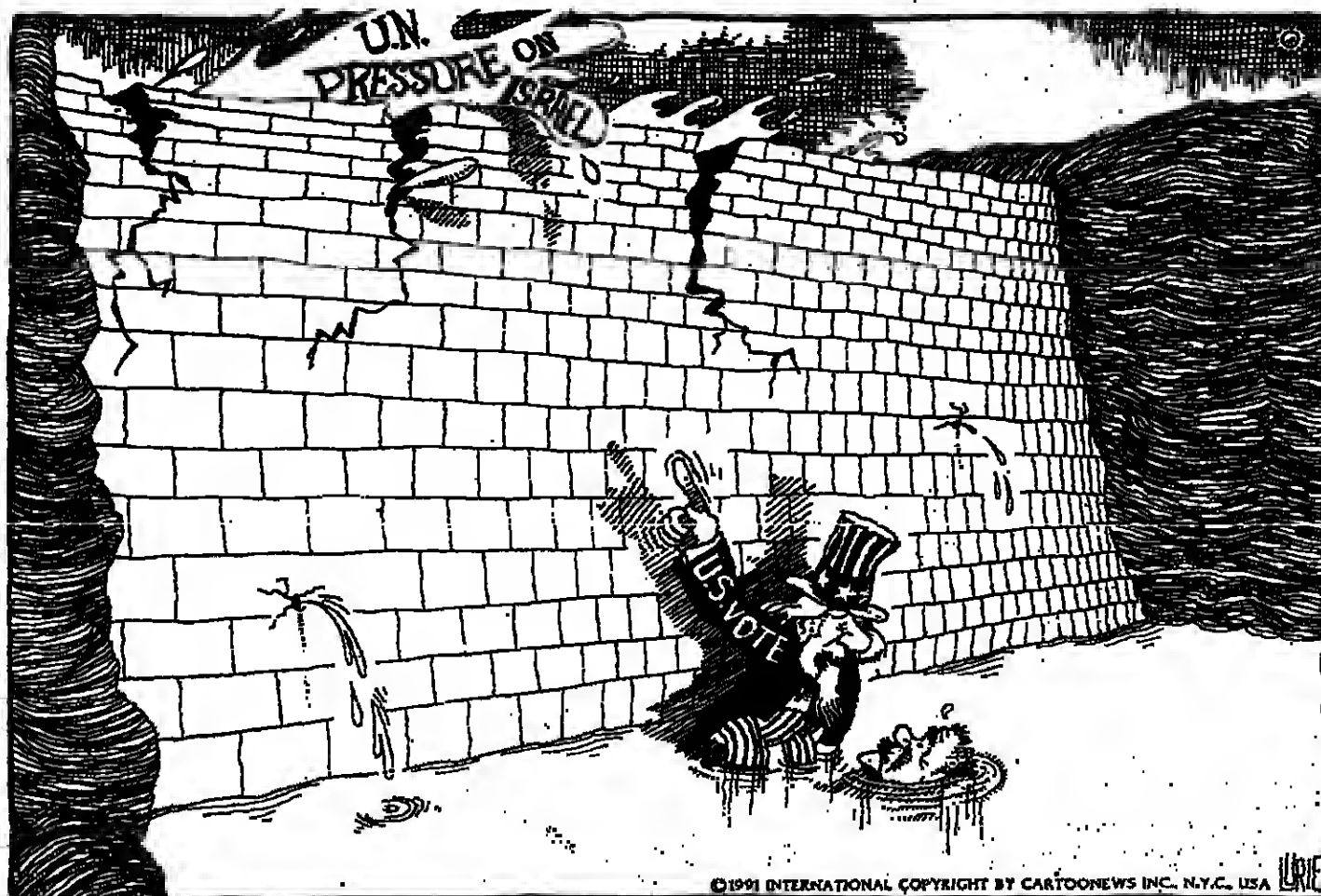
IT can only reflect poorly on the international community that there has been so little protest against Israeli demands that United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 of November 10, 1975, equating Zionism with racism be reversed. The possibility of such an eventuality raises crucial issues regarding the purpose of the United Nations itself and the validity and mandatory worth of its resolutions.

During the recent Gulf crisis, the United States and its allies relied heavily on the concept of the precedence of U.N. resolutions as more than simply the will of the majority of nations. The passage of a resolution, be it of the General Assembly or the Security Council, was invested with an assumption of moral supremacy. Indeed, President Bush has drawn on every ounce of moralistic credit in the U.N. account, not only to justify his adventures in the Gulf, but also to sell his vision of a "new world order," monitored and overseen by a self-assured "U.N. policeman."

Such a vision is in itself fair enough. Indeed, many might aspire to it. However, if U.N. resolutions are to be the vehicle of moral administration then how can they be reversed simply as a matter of political convenience?

Put simply, either Zionism equates with racism, or it does not. Judging from the passage of U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3379 of December 3, 1975, in which 122 out of the then 156 member states condemned the racism pursued in the occupied Arab territories by the Israeli government, a large part of the world believes that in practice, if not in theory, Zionism as pursued by Israel is indeed a racist ideology.

It may be argued that many member states voted for U.N. Resolution 3379 for political rather than moral ends and that present political reality requires international flexibility rather than subjective moralism; that the resolution might indeed be reversed if some significant concession can thereby be wrought from the Israeli government and a tangible step be taken towards a Middle East peace settlement. The age of the radical anti-colonialist stance is over, and a new era of conciliation has begun. Thus must we discard historical



'Don't worry, Mr. Shamir; if it breaks, I'll stick my finger in the dike.'

ical grievance and rejectionism to begin again with confidence building and mutual reassurance. The reversal of one U.N. resolution may appear a small price to pay. But this argument falls critically short for two reasons fundamental to our evaluation of, and intentions towards, the "new world order," and the role of the United Nations within it.

## Essence of U.N. Charter

First, to accept that a U.N. General Assembly resolution concerned with the rights of peoples of different race, colour, creed or nationality to be considered equal with one another and to be treated as such by the governments of member states, in other words the essence of the U.N. Charter itself, can be reversed simply as a matter of political expediency is to assume the corruption of the U.N. idea. While it is naive to assume that

the form and activities of the U.N. are not in large part the result of a median of political compromises, to accept that the decisions of the General Assembly are so disposable is to deny that that body has any genuine progressive role but is rather the short-term policy tool of the strongest political voices. Cynicism regarding the make-up of the Security Council becomes justified if only because the General Assembly becomes correspondingly downgraded, its resolutions subject to hijacking by great power political gamesmanship.

Already the end of the cold war has led to U.S.-Soviet collusion on matters more suitably debated and clarified in a wider international forum. The onus lies with the remainder of the member states, in particular those of the still disadvantaged Third World, to hold fast to the principles established in the interests of

humanity as a whole rather than to bend to the winds of momentary political expediency as dictated by the permanent members of the Security Council in general, and its two superpowers in particular.

The second reason for defending U.N. Resolution 3379 is more specific to the Middle East. Zionism has been the principle justifying creed behind all the most insidious of Israel's policies, towards the Palestinians since 1948. It has been the rationale of "selective democracy" within Israel itself, the continued grip on occupied territories, the theft and settlement of Palestinian land, the discriminatory practices which contravene internationally accepted norms of human, civil and political rights and the gradual and selective removal of Palestinians from the country.

What reversal would mean To reverse condemnation of

such an ideology is to imply that it is, after all, acceptable, and all its tangible manifestations with it. It is to deny the Palestinians credibility in their grievances and to make legitimate policies which have contributed to the destabilisation of the Middle East for over 40 years. Moreover, and bearing in mind that Israel has

consistently and blatantly refused to apply U.N. resolutions to its own behaviour, to give in to such a demand is to confer a unique and dangerous power upon a state proven to lack regard for international law or convention.

Should any member state demand reversal of a U.N. resolution which worked to its own disadvantage, the matter would require intense and carefully considered attention and, in principle, rejection unless the circumstances and conditions to which the resolution applied had substantially changed. Israel has as yet done nothing to merit reversal of Resolution 3379, with the exception of a watered-down anti-racism law drafted in 1985, which outlawed only incitement to racism, but left institutional discrimination and incitement to racism based on religious writings as legal. In tangible terms, Israeli expropriation of Palestinian land and its illegal settlement continues, contrary to basic requirements for a peace settlement. Soviet immigrants are channelled to West Bank settlements and Israeli leaders make ever more strident promises to make no territorial compromise.

The rewards for reversal of the resolution are certainly not such as would merit an action so fraught with implications. Israel is no nearer to making "compromises" for the sake of peace than it was in 1975. Nor is Zionism any less a racist ideology today than it was then. There can be no justification for reversal of the resolution unless the international community is prepared to forego whatever moral and legal credibility the United Nations possesses and become hostage to intransigent small powers and unprincipled great ones — Middle East International.

## Iowa senator — Bush's toughest opponent!

By Irwin Arieff  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Senator Tom Harkin's announcement that he will seek the Democratic presidential nomination divides Democrats and Republicans on one key question: would he be George Bush's easiest opponent or his toughest?

Mr. Harkin — who comes from Iowa, where the very first party nomination test occurs in February — sees liberalism as the best hope of defeating the popular Republican president and has been touring the country saying so.

But some Republican strategists say his left-leaning ideology and populist rhetoric are so out of fashion he would be easy pickings for Mr. Bush in the November 1992 elections.

A campaign against Mr. Harkin would let Mr. Bush and fellow Republicans attempt a repeat of the "liberal bashing" strategy that crushed Michael Dukakis's democrats in 1988 — painting the Democratic nominee as a tax-and-spend liberal out of touch with the American people.

The Republicans' success in holding onto the White House — a Democrat has not been elected president since 1976 — has convinced many Democrats that their party must move to the right to win national elections.

But not Mr. Harkin. That's just nonsense, he likes to say. "It's time to get off our knees and fight back."

Mr. Harkin, who last year became the first Iowa Democrat to be elected to a second term in the Senate, owes much of his political success to his fiery speaking style and a matching fire in his belly. "I'm here to tell you George

Herbert Walker Bush has feet of clay and I'm going to take a hammer to him," Mr. Harkin told a Labour Day rally in San Francisco.

Mr. Harkin says his best issues are economic opportunity, honest hard work, individual responsibility, taking care of one's family, faith in God and concern for the less fortunate.

He is Roman Catholic but still an advocate of abortion rights. In Senate voting, he has opposed Mr. Bush more than all but one senator, according to congressional quarterly.

In one particularly high-stakes contest that the Republicans have vowed to publicise, Mr. Harkin earlier this year led the unsuccessful liberal charge in the Senate against congressional backing for military action in the Gulf. He favoured economic sanctions over use of force against Iraq.

Mr. Harkin accuses Mr. Bush of focusing on foreign policy to the exclusion of a domestic agenda.

"We need a president who knows the threat to national security is not halfway across the world but halfway down the street," he says.

Mr. Harkin enjoys the strong support of organised labour, which should help him in the Democratic primary process, which many say is dominated by Liberal activists and labour groups.

Mr. Harkin was born on November 19, 1939, in Cumming, Iowa, population 151. He was one of six children of a coal miner father and a Yugoslavian immigrant mother who died when he was 10. He worked his way through college and earned a law degree only after working three years as a congressional aide.

# Bush seeking reelection

By Gene Gibbons  
Reuters

CHICAGO — Although President George Bush has not announced his candidacy, he removed any doubt that he was seeking reelection during a gruelling cross-country trip this week that showed his zest for campaigning.

The three-day, 10, 200 kilometres trip took Mr. Bush to Arizona's Grand Canyon, where he focused on the environment, Salt Lake City, Utah, where he talked about health care, Portland, Oregon, where education was the topic and to Los Angeles and Chicago to touch other political bases.

Asked at the outset if the trip represented the start of his reelection campaign for the November 1992 polls, Mr. Bush told reporters, "no, you'll know it when you see it."

But signs of his intentions were unmistakable.

Mr. Bush was accompanied by an independent television camera crew that was gathering footage for campaign commercials. At a construction site in Los Angeles he donned a hard hat and joined

a dozen workers for a fried chicken box lunch.

It was stereotypical behaviour for a U.S. candidate. Standing on the sidelines at Mr. Bush's blue-collar picnic, White House political adviser Ron Kaufman said: "He loves all this — and he's a better politician than he gets credit for being."

Indeed, Mr. Bush, whose popularity rating is still extremely high because of his leadership in the Gulf war, provided a textbook example of how to take advantage of the power of the presidency during his journey.

At the Grand Canyon he presided over the signing of a regulatory agreement with a nearby electric power plant that will clean the air and improve visibility at the world-famous scenic treasure — and at the same time, took issue with critics of his environmental policies.

In Salt Lake City Mr. Bush announced a series of grants to help 15 U.S. communities with high infant mortality rates take corrective measures. His critics often note the United States trails all other major industrial nations in newborn survival rates.

The presidential aura helped

attract an impressive array of Hollywood stars, including Kevin Costner and Sylvester Stallone, to a party fund-raising dinner in Los Angeles.

And at a Hispanic Chamber of Commerce gathering in Chicago Mr. Bush wooed the United States' fastest-growing ethnic group, whose support could make the difference in key states like California, Texas and New York in 1992.

In this appearance, Mr. Bush barely touched on an explosive issue that dogged him throughout the trip — Iraq's continued recalcitrance in complying with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

The president never mentioned his prospective challengers in next year's election. Three Democrats are already vying for their party's presidential nomination and two more are expected to enter the fray soon.

Mr. Bush's plan is to delay officially announcing his candidacy for a second four-year term in the White House until early next year. The primary reason for this is to keep his actions from taking on distinctly partisan overtones as long as possible.

But he has authorised his sup-

porters to begin raising money for his reelection campaign next month. Republican sources say the fund-raising goal is \$26 million, the maximum allowable under campaign spending limits, even though Mr. Bush now seems invincible.

"The economy is the only real question mark, and it seems to be rebounding" from recession, said Larry Thomas, a former aide Mr. Bush.

Mr. Bush, who got a clean bill of health from his doctors last week after a check-up on his recovery from the heart ailment he suffered in May, has also specified that Vice President Dan Quayle will again be his running mate.

He has made several public and private statements that Mr. Quayle's place on the Republican ticket is safe, even though many Americans doubt that the 44-year-old vice president is qualified, if needed, to serve as chief executive.

Another element of Mr. Bush's campaign strategy is to go all out to help elect more Republicans to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, both now controlled by the Democrats.



## Palestinian leadership at crossroads

(Continued from page 1)

that the PLO names the delegation and be the party which will decide the Palestinian negotiating position.

But last week's American insistence that the Palestinian representatives from the occupied territories meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Amman had only reinforced fears here that Washington does not want a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but is seeking Palestinian participation within a Jordanian delegation.

In political terms, according to PLO officials, such insistence could strip the PLO from its right and political mandate

to determine the Palestinian negotiating position.

Initially, all the leadership without exception opposed the idea of sending Faisal Hussein or Hanan Ashrawi to Amman.

"There is distinction between sending them to Amman as part of coordination between the PLO and Jordan — which is totally acceptable and required — and between American insistence to set the terms for the joint delegation," a senior PLO official says.

The PLO leadership had later to comply under tremendous international pressure, especially when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev himself sent an urgent message to Mr. Arafat asking him to allow Mr. Hussein to

go to Amman, PLO officials say.

Mr. Arafat had made his last-minute decision to send Dr. Ashrawi to Amman despite strong objections from his colleagues in the leadership, according to the officials.

The episode, according to PLO officials, did not only expose the PLO's vulnerability to outside pressure but more significantly it highlighted the need for working out a joint strategy with Jordan.

"If we had worked out a joint strategy with Jordan, then Dr. Ashrawi's visit or any future such meeting, will have been in accordance with that strategy. We should not allow the Americans the chance to set the terms for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," says the senior official.

The problem that Mr. Arafat might face at the PNC, however, is that most groups will refuse to make a commitment to a joint delegation but will try to confine the resolutions to a definition of terms of Palestinian participation in the peace process.

But that will nevertheless leave the door open for Mr. Arafat to go to Jordan for working out a joint strategy.

PLO officials and Palestinian analysts believe that the most difficult stage will start after the PNC when it will be left for Mr. Arafat to decide the specific steps to take towards authorising or blocking Palestinian participation in accordance with the PNC resolutions or terms.

In other words, the PNC, which is scheduled to start today, might give a short breathing space for the PLO chairman by keeping the door open, but sooner than later the PLO leadership will have to come to terms with its historic dilemma.

ral opening for peace negotiations and all the problems remain ahead of us," Mr. Peres, 68, told the newspaper.

He forecast little chance of negotiating the future of the occupied Golan Heights or Palestinian opposition to Jewish settlement of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He blamed the "annexationist" policies of Mr. Shamir's rightist Likud party for the growing rift with Israel's chief ally, the United States, which is angry at accelerated Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

"It's not a crisis between the United States and Israel, rather a crisis with the Likud ideology. Israel today is a different Israel, with a new ideology — annexationist with settlements in an unprecedented way, which the United States views as a provocation," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres said billions of dollars Israel invested in settlements would have been better spent on Jewish immigrants.

Labour differs with Likud's determination to hold the occupied territories. Labour favours the partial return of the territory.

Israeli elections are due in 14 months, but Mr. Peres predicted a crisis would force an early poll.

"And time will again be wasted and again Israeli relations with the United States and the world will be harmed, and with it our ability to integrate immigrants," he said.

In a separate interview, Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was ready to negotiate with Arab states alone should Palestinians decide against entering the proposed conference.

Palestinians are divided on whether to attend the talks. Mr. Netanyahu told Israel Radio: "We're trying to make progress on both tracks but if there are difficulties with one of them that doesn't prevent progress on the other track."

He said Israel too had problems with U.S. proposals despite a conditional agreement to enter talks. "We still have questions that we haven't received clear answers on," he added.

## Sick? have no fear, Dr. Ross will be here

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — If you have unsuccessfully tried all the medicines on the market to cure your ailment, why not try this one?

Psychotherapist Roberta Ross will be in town in early October to hold workshops on personal growth, healing, harmony, human nature and artistic creativity to name a few.

Dr. Ross, a transpersonal psychotherapist, will hold three workshops at the National Centre for Psychological and Educational Consultation, (Al Maw'el), the centre's chairman of the board, Dr. Fawzi Tue'meh told the Jordan Times Sunday.

According to Dr. Tue'meh, Dr. Ross will supervise a workshop on "returning to openness" on Oct. 17, another workshop on "honouring the divine tapestry" on Oct. 19, and on "human energy field," on Oct. 21.

The centre, according to Dr. Tue'meh, is "designed to assist individuals of all ages with their developmental and emotional concerns."

The centre is a private organisation. It treats people with personality disorders, children with educational difficulties, addicts, and partners with marriage problems.

The centre is run by Dr. Tue'meh with three partners and four assistants. It was established in 1989.

Dr. Ross, from Eugene, Oregon, has been initiated in the teachings of the Incas, according to Dr. Tue'meh. "She has studied with medicine people and psychic healers, in North, South and Central America," he said.

In April of this year, Dr. Ross travelled through the Middle East and visited Jordan. Upon her return to the U.S., she published a number of articles on the Gulf war and on Jordan and Arabs' attitude towards the U.S. She also wrote on the psychological effects of the war on people, especially children in the region.

"While the poor are suffering the most, the general economy has hit all income groups," Dr. Ross wrote about Jordan.

Prices for the workshop range between JD45 and JD50.

## Baker's efforts in crucial phase

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Baker gave Dr. Ashrawi a redraft of the letter of assurances and said progress was made. But he is clearly becoming impatient.

Mr. Baker does not expect an answer from the Palestinians until the end of the month. The Palestine National Council is expected to debate the issue at a meeting starting Monday in Algiers.

But he let it be known that he would issue invitations to a peace conference to force a decision on Palestinians if they do not say soon whether or not they will attend.

What if Palestinians boycott the conference? Publicly, Mr. Baker is ambiguous on that point. But other U.S. officials hint that it might go ahead without them.

## Palestinians gather in Algiers

(Continued from page 1)

Israel has banned 180 delegates from the occupied territories from attending the Algiers PNC meeting.

Most of these support a peace conference provided the United States gives advance assurances meeting Palestinian conditions.

Lack of U.S. clarity on the assurances demanded by the PLO is fuelling hardline opposition to PNC agreement on joining.

A faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayef Hawatmeh has spoken of boycotting the meeting.

Efforts have also failed to bring into the PNC representatives of other factions who have long been at odds with Mr. Arafat and the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas which has a large following in the occupied territories.

Diplomats say the PNC meeting might end in a vague policy statement — recalling the ambiguity that emerged from its last assembly three years ago.

Then a PNC communiqué, declaring a Palestinian state, also appeared explicitly to recognise the Jewish state's existence. Mr. Arafat had to make several statements to clarify this later.

His scope for manoeuvre this time could depend largely on the composition of the 15-member PLO Executive Committee to be

elected at the Algiers meeting. Palestinians in the occupied territories are showing little interest in the PNC meeting.

"It's as if the PNC does not exist," one Palestinian source said.

The apathy in the occupied territories contrasts sharply with the rapt attention given to the last PNC session, which declared an independent Palestinian state and implicitly recognised Israel's existence.

Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip and barely 10 per cent of the 750,000 population were interested in the outcome of the PNC's Algiers conference.

Leading West Bank academics and political activists say the U.S. failure to endorse Palestinian self-determination may make it difficult for the PNC to decide on Palestinian participation in the conference planned for next month.

"There will be a price to pay for either of the choices we make," said Mahmoud Al Aker, an aide to Faisal Al Hussein, a prominent Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

"Our task would be to choose the path that would cost us less," he said at a debate in East Jerusalem Friday.

Ghassan Andoni, a lecturer at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University, said it would be difficult for the PNC to decide on either option.

If Palestinians chose to boycott

the conference, he said, talks might still go ahead with Arab states participation and Israel might exploit the situation to step up settlement building and increase economic pressures on them.

But if the Palestinians enter talks, they fear they could end up with autonomy under Israeli rule instead of independence.

Supporters in the Gaza Strip of Hamas, a leading force in the 45-month-old revolt against Israeli rule, said the PNC had nothing left to offer.

Hamas opposes the U.S. proposals for a Middle East peace conference and has refused to attend the PNC session.

"It's very difficult for the PNC to take a decisive decision in the present situation because it already gave everything in advance," said Jamal Al Khudari, 36, deputy chairman of the Gaza Engineers Association.

Hazem Yazouri, 19, son of one of the founders of Hamas, said that in the unlikely event the PNC did take a decisive stand, the people of the occupied territories would not heed it.

"If the PNC takes any strong decisions, the Palestinian people will not be committed to them because the PNC does not represent the Palestinians," he said.

Israel Sunday said it banned a Palestinian recently allowed to return to the occupied West Bank from attending the PNC session.

## King meets European delegation

(Continued from page 1)

Representing the EC Presidency in Jordan, French Ambassador Bauchard said that the visit showed the interest of European and Jordanian officials in deepening their contacts. "There was a

common view that Europe should play an increasing role in the Middle East in both the political and economic arenas. This visit strengthened the close relationship between Jordan and Europe," he said.

## Jewish leaders said to warn Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Hadashot said leading U.S. Jews sent "very strong messages" to Mr. Shamir over the weekend warning against the settlement groundbreaking. Unnamed leaders were quoted as calling it "a destructive and unwise policy, and a slap in the face to the administration, Congress and the American people."

Health Minister Ehud Olmert told army radio he presumed it was "correct that there is discomfort among some Jews in the United States about certain questions."

But he added, "I presume that despite the discomfort and more than a few debates, the vast majority of the Jewish people in America completely back Israel's basic demands."

Mr. Shamir's office issued a statement saying the commotion surrounding the new settlement was a "tempest in a teacup and an attempt to exploit a certain event without any justification or basis."

A senior official at the prime ministry said a check was done by the justice ministry which determined the settlement was inside Israel's "pre-1967 borders." This information was given to the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv, said the official, who asked not to be named.

Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres warned Sunday that Middle East peace talks proposed by Washington may offer no more than a photo opportunity.

The Labour Party chief told the Al Hamishmar newspaper the peace conference under U.S. and Soviet auspices sought for next month would only facilitate direct Arab-Israeli talks without resolving the conflict.

"The event could turn into what the Americans call a photo opportunity and so the conference has very limited value," said Mr. Peres, who quit Prime Minister Hitzhak Shamir's coalition last year over the government failure to accept U.S. peace moves.

"It must be remembered that the conference is only a procedu-



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## Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 16-September 20, 1991)

THE dollar/mark interest rate differential resurfaced as a market driving force towards the end of last week, thus pressuring the U.S. currency in a performance similar to that of the previous week. Notwithstanding the role of two political news items in reviving the dollar Wednesday, technical analysis was the decisive factor during most of last week's trading sessions, particularly with most of the U.S. economic data releases coming within expectations. The dollar finished the week marginally lower against major European currencies, but marginally higher against the yen.

In choppy directionless trading, the dollar drifted lower Monday against market concern that another USD discount rate cut could be forthcoming in the near future. It ended at its lowest level of the week against the yen at 133.65 yen, as several U.S. banks cut their prime rates by 0.5% to 8.00%.

The dollar continued to drop against major European currencies Tuesday, closing in New York at what was to be its lowest closing level of the week at 1.6725 marks and 1.7425 dollars to the sterling pound. In the absence of major news items, together with the on-going uncertainty over the U.S. currency's direction in the short run, technical factors prevailed as the dollar probed support at 1.6675 marks, then resistance at 1.6775 marks, failing to breach either.

Wednesday witnessed the dollar rally under the combined effect of technical and political factors. The fact that support levels of 1.6650 marks and 1.7350 yen remained unbreached during the week, called for a technical correction, in which traders covered their short dollar positions. News of U.S. war planes being sent to Saudi Arabia and Russian President Boris Yeltsin suffering from a minor heart attack fuelled some safe haven dollar buying, pushing it further up. But the dollar still closed below its peak for the day, thus reinforcing the underlying bearish sentiment towards it, while some observers maintained that its rally was only temporary. August's U.S. Housing Starts data released during the day revealed an expected rise of 0.6%.

The dollar continued to rally Thursday in a technical carry-over from the previous day thus closing at its highest level of the week against the German currency at 1.6875 marks. The U.S. currency, nevertheless, declined against other major currencies following the release of July's U.S. Trade data to reveal a deficit of \$5.9 billion, against expectations of a deficit of \$5.4 billion and June's deficit of \$3.79 billion.

Friday, on the other hand, witnessed a mark rebound against the dollar and on the crosses, causing the dollar to firm against other major currencies. The dollar's failure to breach resistance at 1.70 marks, having reached a peak of 1.6985 marks, re-instated the underlying dollar/mark yield gap and the uncertainty over the U.S. economy's recovery, as major factors affecting trading activity.

Expectations concerning the dollar's direction during this week remain mixed, but several observers expect dollar support to hold at 1.6700 and at 1.6650 marks. The breach of these levels, on the other hand, could take the U.S. currency to as low as 1.6200 marks.

# Central bank governor reviews recent achievements, outlines challenges facing Jordan in coming years

The following is the partial text of a speech delivered off-the-cuff by Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, during a dinner hosted by the Association of Banks in Jordan on Aug. 7, 1991. The speech, which appeared in the September issue of the Banks in Jordan magazine, was translated and summarised by Samir Shafiq.



Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi

The events which shook our economic structure in 1988 and 1989 were only a relatively simple and negligible forerunner to what lied in store for us in Jordan and the region as a whole, during 1990.

It is now one year and seven days since what happened in Aug. 2, 1990 but I will not seize this occasion for political talk nor to review the economic events which Jordan passed through before and after that date.

It is a fact that we are living the consequences of that huge hurricane and great tremor of August 1990 but I consider that a side-line and a passing phase and I would rather expand in this address on the currents and general trends which started in the Jordanian banking circles in the late 80s and are still continuing and which we might well live through in future years.

Two years ago, we were saying in a similar gathering that the first priority for reform was to rebuild the central bank reserves as a first step to monetary stability. This achievement is the most valuable which we have secured during the past two years.

The reserves, as you know, have been rebuilt either through the net portion of what belongs to the central bank or through the portions belonging to reserves of the banks.

We consider regaining monetary stability as a corner stone because Jordan is the only country in the region which enjoyed monetary stability over tens of years. We know of no years when investments in the Kingdom sank so low as those last few years during which there was no monetary stability.

This achievement is, being actually felt and enjoyed since the last couple of years and the stability is not artificial but real as the central bank can defend it through its reserves' strength.

The second achievement is the regaining of confidence in the Jordanian economy at both the internal and external levels. The confidence stemmed not only from the monetary stability but also from the reform in the banking sector.

The Kingdom faced banking strains during the past three or four years as a result of severe weakening and near-collapse of some institutions and the inability

of some banking units to cope with developments despite its proper setup. Through remedial action in the banking system, the need became great and pressing to reevaluate the whole structure and legislation governing banking activities.

During the task two years we also faced the task of extinguishing fires at a number of institutions where, as you know, some of which were eliminated, liquidated or merged to purify the banking body. This process, as I see it, is still in the beginning stage and so we are face to face with the gradual return to stability in the banking sector.

I would like to stop at these two points as far as the positive and good news during the past two years are concerned, but objectivity and scientific honesty require that we look at the other side also.

We should not overlook the fact that although we attained monetary stability, which, we are confident will continue for at least the next two years, there were circumstances in the past two years that helped us in consolidating our foreign exchange reserves and, consequently, our ability to intervene to support the monetary stability.

The question that arises now is: Does the achievement complement the elements of continuity and stability in the future from a monetary point of view?

We know that the circumstances were conducive to our efforts in the past two years but there were also extraordinary factors as well, not the least of which for example, was the strong foreign aid received by the Kingdom last year to help it cope with aftermath of the Gulf war.

That was one reason among many which helped increase our foreign exchange assets but, can we and by how far we can sustain any unusual factors to help the Kingdom build up the needed balance of payments to enable the country achieve a new equilibrium in its external payments and to maintain continued stability and growth.

I am not more able than any of you to answer this question because the answer depends on many aspects; some scientifically

related and some other facets are totally outside any limit of scientific analysis as we have observed during these two years.

In the banking sector, despite all the measures taken to rectify many negative aspects that threatened to harm the confidence of depositors and Arab as well as foreign interests in our banking setup, we still face a formidable task. It is clear to us that our banking system is still far from catching up with the ongoing development and is much away from competing successfully with large banks which, over a long period of time, managed to form strong and management capable of making profits through lowering costs and offering new financial products to the market.

I doubt that any of us feel totally comfortable to the situation in the banking system as we still feel that some institutions need to be remedied either in form or strength or through the type of services rendered.

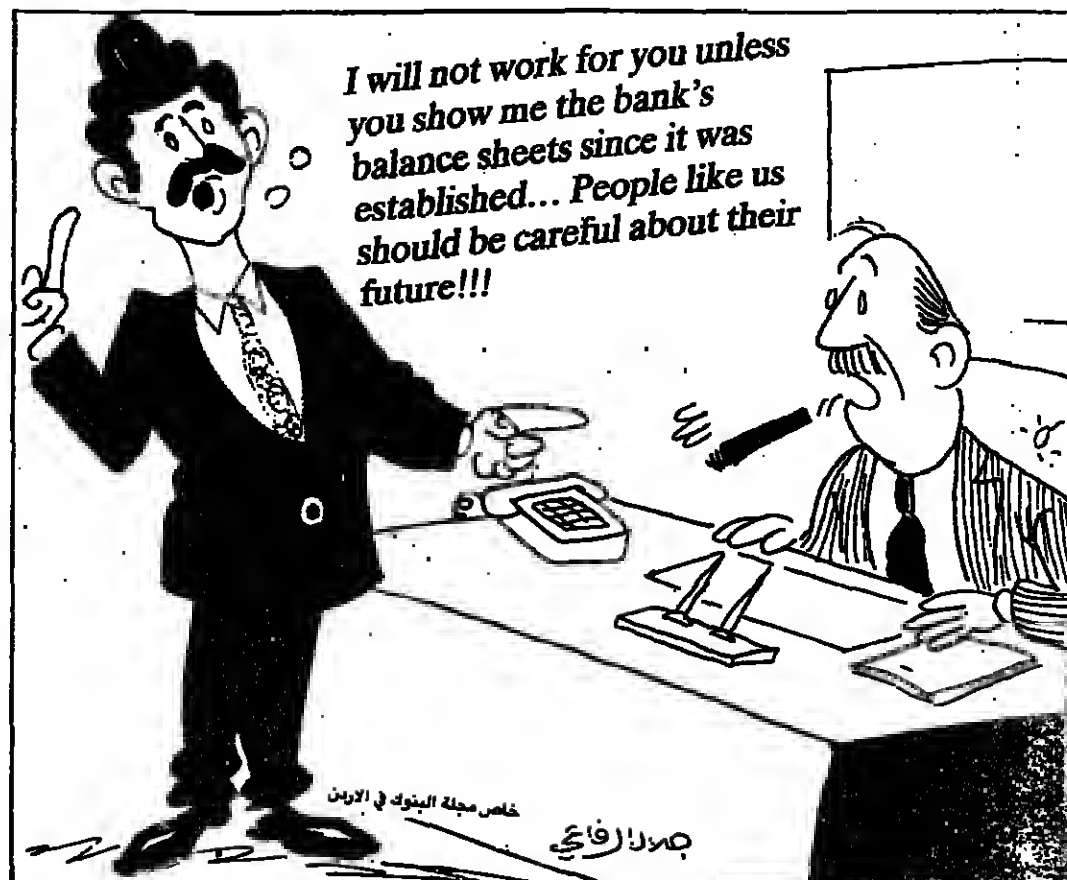
The truth which we cannot escape is that the challenges we face in our monetary and banking strategies for the future are extremely deep and intertwined in the Kingdom's general economic conditions. The huge and basic challenges lie mainly in the distortions in the balance of payments and the general national budget and include growth and investment development and, as such, it involves the government and the private and public sectors and not only the central bank.

This national economic instability, especially after the Gulf crisis, has deepened and much be addressed within the "adjustment programme" framework. We must resolutely enter the process of reform to bring back the balance to many areas of the economy because our monetary stability depends largely on that.

Two and a half years ago, the people unanimously talked about the adjustment programme but I fear that over the months and with the public's reliance on the newly achieved stability, we might forget that what happened in 1988 was the result of neglecting factors of reform in the national economy.

This is an extremely critical point.

The 1988 crisis could not have been solved then and would not be totally solved now unless we continue the reform process with or without the cooperation of the International Monetary Fund. It is vital and even a duty that we should be reminded of that crisis so that we are aware that the imbalances should be under control for many years through a crystal-clear programme which includes predetermined targets and steady stages for implementation.



The answer as to whether we can keep the monetary stability, is therefore positive as long as we can sustain the sacrifices from the reforms which carry a price that is inevitable to pay.

On the banking side, it is relatively easier to control the crisis, which continue to hit us one after another, once we have a very clear perspective for the future years. The monetary stability involves many internal and external elements but restructuring the banking sector is more manageable for reform.

It is obvious from the very beginning that our banking legislation and parameters have been for a very long time unmodernised and inflexible. A proof of that was the necessity to turn to the Economic Security Council during the past two years and to use the martial law as an umbrella to perform certain banking reforms.

As such, updating the legislation and even enacting some provisions is our utmost priority.

An example here is pertinent. The central bank law includes a provision since 1964 to establish a deposit guarantee institution but this item was never enacted for many reasons. Had such an institution been set up it would have played a significant role in past turbulences and in saving public money for the treasury. World nations continuously update their financial laws. There is no ideal financial legislation at all times. We hear about efforts to amend U.S. banking laws. Even in Lebanon, they suffer from

many issues which are common in Jordan also. It is, therefore, imperative that we examine the experiences of other countries, especially Lebanon from whom we learned much in updating banking laws.

Besides updating and modernising the legal framework, there is also the subject of developing and improving the banking management in Jordan. I can say that we were the forerunners in setting up training institutes at the central bank and in many other locations. Over the past 20 years, these institutions were played a very important role in modernising management at banks and in updating information of employees in addition to introducing new banking techniques.

However, honestly speaking, we look and wonder where do our training efforts stand in promoting the managerial calibre. We cannot deny that a great part of the decline we sank to managerially at some banks was due to the laxity in providing these banks with the necessary qualifications.

We feel that after twenty years of continuous efforts in training there is still room for greater action. Truthfully, I think something is wrong. Why our training efforts bear no fruit? We ought to have highly qualified personnel to manage banks and I must say that we face a real crisis in the area of senior cadres even at the central banks. The central bank provided

many of its excellent cadres to the banking sector and other areas and now we face the problem of a new generation for managerial posts and some difficulties have resulted in advancing new highly qualified personnel.

The last issue is that there is no escape whatsoever from continuing in a more pressing form to minimise the number of financial institutions through merging as many as we can to come up with banking units more capable to face the problems of the future.

With the exception of a few institutions, we can say that we do not have the strength of banks which can confidently weather the future. It is not important that a financial entity lives through the years of lavishness, such as the seventies, but the eighties, the years of scarcity which may live with us in the coming years.

We live the years of strains and years of dullness in economic growth and many financial institutions are failing this real test in this period needing the show of strength.

This is the next phase which we, as a monetary authority, in cooperation with the banking system should be aiming at: how to purify the banking system from elements of weakness and inability to progress? This is a very important question that we should live with for many years. We should not stop or relax to what I may describe, with your permission, "the prestige of office" only functioning or growing at a minimal level under a legitimate cover.

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## Croatia, army declare truce

BELGRADE (AP) — The federal defence minister and bloodied Croatia Sunday declared a ceasefire in the fighting raging in the republic from the Danube River to the Adriatic Sea.

It was not immediately clear whether this ceasefire, the second announced in less than a week, could hold.

Air raid sirens wailed in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, five minutes before the ceasefire was to take effect at 3 p.m. (1300 GMT).

Army forces still were massed in eastern Croatia, and in the rival Republic of Serbia near the Croatian border. Fighting raged around the republic as the new ceasefire deadline approached.

But an order from Croatian President Franjo Tudjman read on Croatian TV announcing the ceasefire directed local officials to lift an embargo on water, food, electricity and medical care to federal army barracks in the republic.

Imposition of the blockade last

Saturday drew the army much more deeply into fighting with the republic's forces.

"An agreement was reached with the leadership of Croatia at 11:50 today to issue and publicly announce mutual orders about an absolute ceasefire, to end all attacks and movement, at 1500 hours (1300 GMT) on Sept. 22, 1991," said a statement issued by Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic.

"In this connection, I am ordering all commands, units, and institutions of the Yugoslav People's Army on the territory of the Republic of Croatia: On Sept. 22, 1991, at 1500 cease all attacks and movements, and ensure an absolute ceasefire," said the statement, which was transmitted by the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug.

Vesna Skare, a spokeswoman for Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, said he and Gen. Kadijevic reached a verbal agreement on a ceasefire Sunday morning, apparently in a tele-

phone conversation.

She said the deal was made on the basis of overtures Croatia had made Saturday to the federal army.

More than 500 have been killed in fighting in Croatia since the republic declared independence on June 25.

The last ceasefire agreement was made Tuesday, when Tudjman, Gen. Kadijevic and Serbian Slobodan Milosevic signed an agreement with European Community (EC) mediator Lord Carrington.

But fighting continued unabated after that agreement, and escalated within days.

The army launched a major offensive at eastern Croatia from Serbian territory Friday, apparently aimed at some of the few strongholds Croatian forces have left in the area. Fighting has been reported around the towns of Vinkovci and Vukovar.

On Saturday, Croatian leaders offered to restore water and electricity to federal barracks, and

allow food to get in. But they said they would continue to surround the barracks.

Gen. Kadijevic rejected the feelers as insufficient and pledged "resolute military action."

It was not known what had changed in order for the two sides to call for a ceasefire.

Gen. Kadijevic said Saturday the army's move was intended to relieve barracks besieged by the Croats. But Croatian officials and some Western diplomats said it appeared to be part of a bigger plan to carve out new borders for a smaller, weaker Croatia and a new, Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Croatian officials reported the fall of the key strategic town of Petrinja, 60 kilometres south of Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

They said Petrinja, a small town of about 7,000 Serbian and Croatian inhabitants on the road to Zagreb, fell after days of vicious street fighting when army troops captured a bridge and cut the road north.



A member of the Croatian National Guard transports a mortar in a pickup truck to the front to fight the Serbian guerrillas.

Earlier, Tanjug said a powerful column of tanks and armoured vehicles scored a major success in eastern Croatia, which the army has cut off from the rest of the republic.

Tanjung said the armoured column punched its way into the town of Vinkovci and relieved the army garrison blockaded and besieged by Croatian fighters for days.

The success showed that the army had won the upper hand in eastern Croatia and diplomats said it had the firepower to take the bigger nearby towns of Osijek and Vukovar if it decided so.

## S. Africa proposes new army role to ANC

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) is studying government proposals for an army which could include black veterans of the 30-year war against South Africa's white-led military machine.

Three Sunday papers reported leaked details of a proposal to the ANC and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party on a code of conduct for the current army and a framework for a neutral post-apartheid defence force.

Both the government and the ANC declined comment on the reports, but one source did confirm that specific proposals had been made to the ANC.

Agreement in the short term on the code of conduct could plug the main gap in a peace accord signed by President F.W. de Klerk, ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Dr. Buthelezi on Sept. 14.

The three newspapers said the government had proposed making soldiers answerable to the constitution and the people

rather than to the government in power or any political party.

It also proposed limiting the scope for secret operations like the Civil Cooperation Bureau, a shadowy military hit squad alleged to have killed scores of anti-apartheid activists.

The Liberal Sunday Times quoted from the draft: "... (officers) recognise human rights in the execution of their duties and shall accept personal responsibility for ... the legality of the conduct of their subordinates."

## Democrats hope to attack Bush like pit bull dogs

LOS ANGELES (R) — Democratic Party leaders ended a three-day meeting predicting that their potential presidential candidates would attack President George Bush like "pit bull dogs" in the 1992 election.

The 413-member Democratic National Committee concluded a meeting Saturday after showing off seven announced or possible presidential candidates.

The committee, the National Party Organisation, is an important voting bloc to woo since each member will have a vote in selecting the Democratic presidential nominee at the party convention next July.

Mr. Bush has not yet declared himself a candidate in the Nov. 3, 1992 election.

Chris Sproul, chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, said the potential candidates will continually attack.

"My assessment is George Bush is going to be confronted by a pack of pit bull dogs who will grab him by the legs and drag him through the streets of America so he can see the misery he has caused," he told Reuters.

Party leaders said a theme of the speeches here was that Republican Bush had spread a policy of greed.

Mr. Bush, whose overall approval in the latest Gallup poll was 68 per cent, is a highly popular president. The Gulf war victory boosted his rating to a record 90 per cent.

The same poll gives him high marks for handling foreign policy but low ones for handling the economy, now in recession. Traditionally economic issues decide presidential elections.

Two-time presidential aspirant Jesse Jackson gave few clues as to whether he would run again.

He said the party needed a vision to win and that he would work for the party whether or not he was a candidate.

"If I were your president, my first act would be to call a domestic summit with a plan to rebuild America," he said.

Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, an unabashed liberal, said Mr. Bush had sent "a message of unbridled greed ... get what you can, to hell with everyone else."

He predicted victory over Mr. Bush if the party works together "to take back the country from the privileged few."

George Bush is more than happy to tell Israel how to behave — why won't he tell Wall Street how to behave?" said Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, a moderate.

## Superpowers hail 'final phase' of Cambodia diplomacy

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council Saturday hailed the Cambodian government and guerrilla factions for bringing within reach "lasting peace in that country."

Prince Norodom Sihanouk Friday announced that the government and guerrilla factions have agreed to a peace accord. He said the document would be signed Oct. 31 in Paris, ending the 20-year civil war.

The United States, France, Britain, China and the Soviet Union — the five permanent Security Council members — Saturday joined with Indonesia to issue the communique congratulating the Cambodians.

Indonesia and France are co-sponsors of the Paris peace conference.

## Former agent says he was 'fifth man' in U.K. spy ring

LONDON (AP) — The "fifth man" in Kim Philby's spy ring that revealed some of Britain's biggest secrets to the Kremlin has come forth and confirmed his role.

The man himself — John Cairncross, a former high-ranking British intelligence agent, has verified accounts of his participation.

Mr. Philby, considered the most damaging double agent in British history, spied for the Soviets for 26 years before fleeing to Moscow in 1963. He and three other members of his spy ring recruited in the 1930s — Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean and Anthony Blunt — are now dead.

"I was made one of the five during the war. I hope this will finally put an end to the fifth man mystery," Mr. Cairncross, 78, told the Mail on Sunday newspaper at his home in Provence, France.

He was named as the fifth man last year in the book "KGB: The Inside Story of its operations from Lenin to Gorbachev" by Soviet double agent Oleg Gordievsky, who defected to Britain in 1985. Mr. Cairncross denied it at the time.

The accusation was repeated last week by former KGB Colonel Yuri Modin in an article in the Soviet magazine "Sovershenko Sekremo," or Top Secret.

Mr. Cairncross spent 16 years working for Britain's Foreign Office, the treasury, a government minister's office, Britain's electronic eavesdropping centre and M16, the spy agency responsible for gathering foreign intelligence.

Among information he passed to the Soviets, according to Mr. Gordievsky, was their first warning of the Anglo-American decision to build an atomic bomb in the 1940s.

The Mail on Sunday did not say whether Mr. Cairncross discussed the atomic bomb allegations, what other damaging information he gave the Soviets or why he chose to betray his country.

While all five men were recruited at the same college, Col. Modin said in the magazine article that the fact that they were

known to the KGB as "the five" was coincidental.

The five got their name in 1943 because Moscow centre was physically unable to process the large amount of intelligence material covering Great Britain and the British Empire," he said.

Five agents were selected as being of prime importance in obtaining German plans to counter the Russian offensive, and their information was given priority treatment, Col. Modin said.

"The five were not a team of agents or a Communist Party cell. They all worked independently," he said. "It now seems to me that ignorance over this was one of the reasons why the investigations by Britain's M15 in 1951 into those five spies took so long."

Mr. Cairncross told the Mail on Sunday he was promoted into the ranks of the other four spies after the Battle of Kurks in 1943.

"I had provided information which helped the Soviets to win that battle against the Germans," he said.

According to Mr. Gordievsky, Mr. Cairncross provided information to the Soviets on the position of Luftwaffe and Panzer units prior to the battle.

Mr. Cairncross was given immunity from prosecution after admitting to the M15, Britain's internal intelligence agency, in 1952 and 1964 that he had been a Soviet agent.

"Yes, I helped the Russians. I was recruited at Cambridge before the war and continued meeting my Soviet contacts in London in the post-war years," he said.

Mr. Gordievsky's book, written with Cambridge intelligence historian Christopher Andrew, quoted KGB officer Dmitri Svetanko as saying: "Cairncross's achievements were the equal of any of the five except Philby."

Mr. Philby was on his way to becoming head of British intelligence when he came under suspicion in 1951 after warning Mr. Maclean and Mr. Burgess that they were under investigation and they fled to the Soviet Union. Mr. Philby followed 12 years later. He died a decorated KGB officer in 1988 at age 76.

## Armenia takes fast track to independence

YEREVAN, the Soviet Union (R) — Armenian leaders, bolstered by huge support for secession in Saturday's referendum, have abandoned their gradualist approach to breaking with Moscow and say they will declare independence Monday.

"Independence starts Monday, when parliament meets and says so," President Levon Ter-Petrosyan told reporters after the vote. "Independence is a political act against which there is no argument."

The first result showed 92 per cent of the electorate in Yerevan voted yes, 0.5 per cent said no and 0.5 per cent of ballots were spoiled.

Results from outlying regions, which polls said would have voted even more strongly for independence, were due by Monday.

Armenia's nationalist-dominated parliament decided initially to secede following Soviet law — an uncertain process spread over five years and beginning with the referendum.

Then last month's failed right-wing coup against Soviet Presi-

dent Mikhail Gorbachev smashed the power of Kremlin conservatives and sparked off a wave of independence declarations.

All but three of the 15 Soviet republics have now announced their secession, though Moscow has recognised only the three Baltic states.

But the show of national pride — which has stayed strong despite 900 years of foreign domination — does not disguise the rough seas which lie ahead for Armenia.

"Of course it will be difficult," Ter-Petrosyan said. "But in declaring independence we are supporting the people's will and fulfilling a long-held goal."

Largely Christian Armenia, which is about the size of Belgium, is surrounded by big neighbours, many of them ancient enemies. Azerbaijan is to the east, Georgia to the north, Turkey and Iran to the south and west.

"The modern policy of Armenia is that we should have normal relations with all our neighbours," said Tigran Martirosyan,

an official at Armenia's Foreign Ministry. "People are changing, states are changing."

But Armenia remains locked in a bitter territorial dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mainly Armenian area under Azerbaijan administration.

President's Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan were due in Yerevan Sunday to discuss the conflict, which has cost more than 800 lives in three years.

"I have hopes about these talks," Mr. Ter-Petrosyan said Saturday night. "In the light of the putsch ... we are at a very suitable moment to reach a compromise as Azerbaijan no longer has such power in Moscow."

If the talks go well, the three presidents will travel to the mountain spa of Mineralnye Vody in southern Russia to hold negotiations with Azerbaijan's President Ayaz Mutalibov Monday or Tuesday, Mr. Antinyan said.

U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens, in Yerevan to monitor the referendum, said that if the fighting persisted he would press for U.N. observers to be sent to the zone.

Moscow gave Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan in 1923 in what Armenia says was a bid to appease Turkey, an old Armenian foe.

Turkish-Armenian hostility still runs close to the surface, although Yerevan says it is now forging ties with Ankara as part of its new independence realism.

"There is no threat from Turkey nowadays. There was — in the fact of the 1915 genocide, but no longer," said the Foreign Ministry's Mr. Martirosyan.

But memories are far from dead, with a festival planned for Sunday to remember the 1.5 million Armenians whom Yerevan accuses the Turks of killing in 1915. Turkey denies it.

Yeltsin, Nazarbayev in Karabakh, Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Nazarbayev arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh Sunday in an attempt to mediate a peace in the bloody ethnic conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.K. Labour Party regains lead

LONDON (AP) — Speculation that Prime Minister John Major would call an election this autumn was subdued Saturday by a poll that showed the opposition Labour Party with a four-point lead over the ruling Conservatives. The swing was a blow to the Conservatives after nearly a month in which polls put them marginally ahead of Labour. The poll published in the Sunday Times gave Labour 43 per cent of voters' support, Conservatives 39 per cent, Liberal Democrats 14 per cent, Greens 7 per cent and other parties 2 per cent. Three weeks ago, the same poll gave the Conservatives a 2 per cent lead, and most polls have shown the Tories up to 5 per cent ahead, Market and Opinion Research International polled 1,063 voters on Thursday and Friday for the Sunday Times. The margin of error was 3 per cent. Conservative Party Chairman Chris Patten, commenting on the poll, said: "The longer things go on, the better our prospects. The polls are extremely volatile at the moment. I am extremely relaxed and so is the prime minister." Mr. Major can wait until summer to call an election, but the Labour Party is pressing for ballot now.

### U.S. gunman surrenders after killing 1

SANDY, Utah (AP) — A man carrying dynamite and two guns shot and killed a nurse and took over a hospital maternity ward Saturday, police said. He gave up more than 17 hours later and freed nine hostages, including a baby born during the standoff. Police said Richard L. Worthington, a 39-year-old father of eight, said he went to Alta View Hospital to kill a doctor who had operated on his wife two years ago to prevent her from becoming pregnant again. "During initial negotiations he wanted his wife and the doctor, and he wanted to kill the doctor," said Salt Lake Police Sgt. Don Bell, part of a team of negotiators who talked with Worthington by telephone during the standoff. The doctor, obstetrician Glade Curtis, said Worthington had threatened him repeatedly since he performed surgery to tie the fallopian tubes of Worthington's wife, Karen. Curtis fled as the siege began. Worthington was arrested and held without bail at the Salt Lake City-county jail for investigation of aggravated murder, eight counts of aggravated kidnapping and "possession of an infernal machine," for possessing explosive materials. Bell said Worthington maintained that he and his wife hadn't consented to the operation.

### Norlega trial turns political

MIAMI (AP) — Manuel Noriega's week-old drug trial shows signs of turning into a political black hole, dragging in governments and public figures from the United States to Colombia and from Israel to the Bahamas. The list is likely to grow. Prosecutors and defence attorneys are near an agreement to fly to Cuba to take a videotaped deposition from President Fidel Castro. And the defence has made no secret of its intention to claim top U.S. spies and Reagan administration officials were Gen. Noriega's political bed mates, especially when it came to aiding Nicaragua's contra rebels. The politicisation has overcome the efforts of U.S. District Judge William Hoeweler, who sternly lectured jurors and attorneys before testimony began. He told them to ignore political distractions and stick with the drug charges. "There will be nothing about this case that has anything to do with politics," the judge vowed. That was never realistic, says Jeffrey Weiner, head of the National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers. "It would be extremely naive for anyone to believe this is not a political prosecution," he said. "It involves a head of state and a U.S. invasion of Panama. Politics is part of it."

### Divers recover 6 bodies in Tokyo tunnel

TOKYO (AP) — Divers Sunday recovered the bodies of six construction workers from a tunnel flooded four days before by heavy rains, police said. Another worker was missing. Rescue teams have been searching the flood tunnel under construction in Matsudo, east of Tokyo, where the seven workers were trapped when rains unleashed by tropical storm Luke flooded a nearby river, swamping the tunnel. The search for the remaining worker was suspended Sunday afternoon because the 17 divers were

fatigued after working throughout the early morning to retrieve the six bodies, police said. The search was to resume Monday morning. Police said the missing worker was probably in the tunnel, but did not say there was a good chance he was alive.

### Vietnamese shot dead in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Police shot dead a Vietnamese man during a fight between rival gangs in one of Hong Kong's teeming refugee camps Sunday, a police spokesman said. Two Vietnamese armed with knives attacked a policeman sent to investigate an early morning brawl at Pillar Point Refugee Camp. He shot one dead and the other fled, the spokesman said. The dead was identified as 24-year-old To Van Lap. No further details were available.

### Salvador rebels make compromise proposal

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Salvadorean rebel commanders apparently broke an impasse in U.N.-led peace talks by dropping a key demand that their forces be merged into the army, diplomats said Sunday. Rebels of the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), will settle instead for inclusion in El Salvador's police force providing there are enough international guarantees for their safety when the 11-year-old civil war ends. The revised proposals are among those being considered by Salvadorean government representatives in talks led by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Negotiators are also working out how to deal with army officers and enlisted men accused of extreme human rights abuses, the diplomats said. "They are trying to come up with something on how to purge the army that the government would accept," an envoy told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Rebel spokesman Shafik Handal would say only that the talks had entered a complicated stage.

### 4 die in Mexican hostage drama

MEXICO CITY (R) — Three inmates and a guard have died when prisoners in a northern Mexican jail seized six hostages at gunpoint then staged a daring breakout in jeeps, authorities said. Some 20 prisoners in a local jail in Guasave, a town in the state of Sinaloa some 1,100 kilometres northwest of the capital, seized the prison director, three guards and two Red Cross workers early Saturday, and in the process killed another guard, a government spokesman said. Authorities, bowing to the prisoners' demands, provided them with two Ram Charger jeeps in which they fled from the prison while still holding the hostages. "We let them go because we wanted to prevent a bloodbath of incalculable consequences," the spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said in a telephone interview. Some 250 police, staked out around the prison, set out in hot pursuit of the escapees by car and helicopter. Police opened fire on some of the convicts after they had abandoned their vehicle, killing three, the spokesman said.

### Honecker reportedly seeks to return home

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Former East Germany Communist leader Erich Honecker has been in touch with the Bonn government through Russian middlemen about a possible return to Germany from Soviet exile, a magazine reported Saturday. The magazine, Der Spiegel, said the unidentified middlemen had asked on Honecker's behalf whether he could discuss conditions for a possible return to Germany with a Bonn official. Klaus Blech, Germany's ambassador to Moscow, has been instructed to get in contact with Honecker. "His orders are not to make any promises but to convince Honecker to return," Spiegel said. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Bonn said he knew nothing about Spiegel's report. Honecker, 79 and reportedly in poor health, was spirited away to the Soviet Union from a Soviet military hospital outside Berlin in March to avoid arrest. He is wanted in Germany for issuing shoot-to-kill orders to border guards to stop east Germans from fleeing to the west. Honecker was east Germany's Communist leader for 18 years before his ouster in late 1989.

## COLUMN

### 'Trump, Maples have split up ... again'

NEW YORK (AP) — The on-again, off-again, on-again romance of Donald Trump and Maria Maples is off again, a newspaper reports. "I want to remain good friends with her. But it's time to step aside and look in other directions," Trump told the Daily News of New York in an article published Sunday. This is the second breakup for the duo, whose two-year romance has been played out in public ever since Trump split with and divorced his wife, Ivana. After a one-week split between Trump and Maples in July, the couple reconciled and Trump gave Maples a 7.45-karat diamond engagement ring. "I was free for a week and I didn't like it," Trump said at the time. A wedding date was never announced. The newspaper said the couple split Friday night at Maples' Manhattan apartment after a shouting match that left Maples in tears. "Maria is just a wonderful, beautiful woman, very talented, with a terrific future as a model or actress," Trump told the News.

### Scotland Yard burgled

LONDON (R) — London police have been embarrassed by the bizarre burglary of a full set of riot gear for their Scotland Yard headquarters. A police spokesman Saturday confirmed newspaper reports that a 25-year-old woman, apparently with a history of mental problems, had walked into the building in August and left with the riot gear. The woman's family found her modelling the outfit at home and returned it to their local police station. "Additional security measures have been taken," the police spokesman said.

### University honours Duchess of York

LONDON (R) — The Duchess of York, wife of Britain's Prince Andrew and budding author of children's books, gained double academic honours Friday when she was awarded a doctorate and made a university chancellor. The duchess wore gold-braided academic robes and mortar board to receive her honorary doctorate of letters and be installed in the largely ceremonial position of chancellor at Salford University in northern England. Her new academic status has drawn biting comment in the British press, which pointed out that the duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson, went to secretarial college and did not attend university. The Today newspaper said she was best remembered at school for giving a teacher to a chair. In fact, the duchess gained eight public examination passes as a teenager, far above the national average, before attending Queen's Secretarial College in London. She became a publishing executive, learned how to fly a helicopter, and wrote a series of children's books about a helicopter called Budgie.

### Nepal raises cost of climbing Everest

KATHMANDU (R) — In an attempt to stop litter piling up on the roof of the world, Nepal announced Friday that charges for climbing Mount Everest will quadruple from March 1 next year. The new spring season charge, "in the interests of environmental conservation" will be a total of \$10,000 for the first nine climbers plus \$1,200 for each extra member of an expedition, the Tourism Ministry said. This is up from the current flat rate for each team equivalent in Nepali rupees to about \$2,300.

### South African town cancels rhino roast

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The publicity-hungry South African town of Christiansburg bit off more than it could chew when it announced plans this week to barbecue a rhinoceros. Town officials said they would hold the barbecue during an October winter festival in the hope that the publicity would put Christiansburg on the tourist map. Instead, they found enraged critics suggesting that they should be roasted rather than the rhino. On Saturday, town clerk Corrie Cornelius said the barbecue had been cancelled. The Afrikaans-language Beeld newspaper quoted a source who said it was abandoned because of an outcry from animal lovers across the country. The rhino was due to be shot in October by a paying American or European trophy hunter.